



Diocese of Rockford

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Office of the Bishop

September 26, 2018

Dear Monsignor/Father,

As you are well aware, hurricane season has once again struck and we have witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas. Although it has been 12 days since Florence hit the coast, rivers swollen by the storm's relentless rains are still flooding homes and businesses in their paths as they make their way to the sea causing great suffering and destruction.

In a letter to all Bishops, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, asked that a special appeal be taken up for 2018 Disasters due to recent patterns of increasing number of natural disasters.

Archbishop DiNardo's letter specifies that, "The funds collected in this special appeal for 2018 Disasters will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their local agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church. Funds will be used in response to Hurricane Florence and any other natural disasters that occur this year."

To fulfill this request, I ask that you please take up this special second collection at all Masses of September 29-30, 2018.

With gratitude for your priestly service, and especially for the devotion of the faithful in your parish to the needs of those impacted by this disaster and other potential disasters that may follow as we near the end of 2018, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford