



Office of the Bishop

## *Diocese of Rockford*

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June 30, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we are all aware from the news reports, Venezuela was struck by two powerful earthquakes on Wednesday, June 24. The death toll reported in the press is over 1,000 but experience suggests such estimates lag and the final number is likely to be higher. Of course, material damage and ongoing suffering are beyond calculation.

In the course of the annual International Appeal Combine Collection, the faithful of the Diocese of Rockford have already given generously to the Disaster Relief Fund to be prepared for disaster relief such as these earthquakes. I am very grateful for the generosity of the faithful to help out and join in solidarity with the needy and with the Church in other parts of the world.

As a result, this week I have authorized a distribution from our collections for international disasters to be directed to Venezuela. The Diocese of Rockford has sent \$25,000 to Catholic Relief Services which has long and well-known experience in disaster relief. Working with the local Caritas Venezuela, the CRS website states that such donations will be used for emergency shelter and essential household items, food assistance, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency health and trauma care, mental health and emotional support, and protection for vulnerable populations, particularly children, older adults and people with disabilities.

Should you wish to make a further contribution in this moment of great need, please consider donating directly to Catholic Relief Services. The contact information to do so can be found on the website of the Diocese of Rockford or on the Facebook page of the Diocese of Rockford.

With gratitude for your prayers and generosity, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford