

The following is a copy of the letter that Bishop Hubbard sent today to the parishes in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. At the bottom of the letter is information about how you can make a donation to provide help to the hurricane victims:

The devastation and destruction by Hurricane Katrina is being felt in many dioceses of the United States, but most especially in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The media coverage has made it abundantly clear that the needs will be great and long lasting. Further there is the possibility of more hurricanes coming in the next several months.

Millions of people are in need of assistance and Catholic Charities will be among the primary responders. Catholic Charities offices in the local dioceses have a professional and well-developed system of reviewing the needs and providing help where it can accomplish the most good. Catholic Charities will be providing emergency food, shelter, rent, medicine, utilities and mental health counseling both for the short-term relief and long-term support during recovery efforts. Also, our Diocesan Catholic Charities office has offered to send volunteers to help directly in assisting the victims.

Given the enormity of the need in the wake of the hurricane devastation, I am asking you to take up a special collection this weekend for the relief efforts in the hurricane-affected areas of the United States. Please send your parish collection to: 2005 Hurricane Relief Fund, Catholic Charities, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203.

I urge you to invite your parishioners to remember in prayer our neighbors who have lost and suffered so much. With gratitude for your assistance in responding to this tragedy, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Howard Hubbard

There are several ways you can make a donation directly to Catholic Charities:

- **By check via mail to the 2005 Hurricane Relief Fund, Catholic Charities, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York, 12203**
- **By credit card via phone: 518-453-6650**
- **By credit card via mail (see above address) or fax (518-453-6792). Please make sure to include your name, address, phone number, card number, expiration date, and amount, or, if you prefer, use the form provided in the "How to Contribute" section of our website (www.ccrda.org).**