



November 13, 2008

Dear Brother Priests,

As most of you are aware, Bishop Bullock and I have recently been at the Fall Assembly of our U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The meetings themselves were somewhat fruitful and, as you can imagine, it is always good to have some time of fraternity with brother bishops.

One of the moments at our meeting which struck me most profoundly was the presentation by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, the Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, regarding the tremendous damage which occurred as a result of Hurricane Ike. This hurricane, which hit the gulf-region of Texas in early to mid September, has been overshadowed in the media by election coverage, stories on the current economic crisis, and other news. Ike was, however, one of the most powerful hurricanes in recorded history, and was the third costliest in U.S. history – surpassed only by Hurricane Katrina and 1992’s Hurricane Andrew.

People living in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and in the Diocese of Beaumont were the most seriously harmed. Because of the great need following this devastating hurricane, I have made the decision that the portion of our Diocesan “Share Your Faith Campaign” collection which was previously to be directed to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will now be going directly to the Hurricane Ike Recovery Fund. This fund, which will be managed by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Diocese of Beaumont will go to the aid of the people within those dioceses, as well as to the rebuilding of destroyed Catholic schools and parishes.

Those portions of the “Share Your Faith Campaign” which were to be allotted to the important tasks of assisting the poor of our own diocese and to the Catholic Communications Campaign will remain as they were.

Clearly, this is a time of economic difficulty for so many in our nation; yet we are still called to step forward, with open arms, to assist our brothers and sisters in need. As such, I appreciate your efforts in promoting the “Share Your Faith Campaign” for the good of those in need as a result of Hurricane Ike, for those in need here in Southwestern Wisconsin, and for the announcing of the faith to those in need of Christ’s message of love and mercy.

Thank you, as always, for all you do.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert C. Morlino'.

The Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

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