

9/28/2024

Dear Monsignors and Fathers,

I write to share an update on the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. As parishioners may seek an update, please share the messages below during Mass this weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Altenau, Director of Disaster Services, at Daniel.Aldenau@ccharitiesdor.org.

Helene Impact on Western NC

- Significant damage to infrastructure including: power, telephones, drinking water, & roadways.
- Communication is limited, making it difficult to fully assess the needs, but we are actively gathering information as it becomes available.
- Shelters have been established and mass feeding operations are underway.
- We have not received reports of impacts from within the Diocese of Raleigh. If you know of communities impacted by this storm, please email Daniel.Aldenau@ccharitiesdor.org.

Catholic Charities Support

- On Thursday, September 26th, we established a plan with Catholic Charities USA to stage disaster supplies in Greenville, NC prior to Helene's landfall. These items will be delivered as soon as Catholic Charities Charlotte is ready to receive them.
- We will continue to coordinate with CCUSA and CC Charlotte to provide ongoing support.

How Parishes and Parishioners Can Help

- Cash donations are currently the most effective way to meet urgent and rapidly evolving needs.
- Parishioners can be directed to donate to CCUSA by visiting www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/Helene.
 - Following Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, CCUSA provided over \$2.5 million to our Diocese; now we have the opportunity to give back.
- Please refrain from hosting in-kind donation drives for now. We are working with CCUSA and CC Charlotte to assess specific needs and will share updates when appropriate.
 - Unsolicited donations can hinder critical response activities at this time.

As we support response efforts in Western North Carolina, we are also assisting families to recover from the rain event which impacted the Cape Fear Deanery on Monday, September 16th. Let us hold in prayer all those affected by Hurricane Helene and the flooding in the Cape Fear Region, as well as the first responders and nonprofit staff and volunteers serving our neighbors in need.

Thank you,



Lisa Perkins
CEO

