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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

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September 10, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the recent devastating impact of Hurricane Ida across several states, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is calling upon all Dioceses to support those impacted by Hurricane Ida.

The powerful category 4 Hurricane caused devastation to parts of Louisiana, before moving across northeastern states bringing record rainfall to Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Complicating matters further is the COVID-19 pandemic, as outbreaks of the Delta Variant have left hospitals at or near capacity, and in some cases, flooded and without electricity.

Hurricane Ida severely damaged and destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, and churches. More importantly, lives have been lost and communities are truly struggling. Help is needed to aid the victims of this storm and to assist in their well-being.

Parishes in the Diocese of Venice will take up an emergency collection the weekend of September 25 and 26, 2021. Through the Catholic Charities Network your donations will be distributed to support those who are the most vulnerable, providing humanitarian aid (water, food, shelter and medical care), as well as long-term efforts to restore communities after widespread destruction. Thank you for your generosity and kindness to our brothers and sisters in these very difficult times. Please continue to pray for victims of all-natural disasters!

This opportunity is taken to extend to each of you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Venice in Florida