



September 5, 2019

My Beloved in Christ,

I have been closely following the weather events of Hurricane Dorian with great concern for our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas. We extend our heartfelt prayers and support to all those who have been affected by this devastating hurricane and all those preparing as it moves northward.

As you are aware the Bahamas is my adopted home country, having lived and served there for many years. We still have numerous friends and colleagues living there, as well as our daughter Amanda, her husband Jamie, and our new grandson Jace. I served as parish priest on the island of Great Abaco for a number of years.

From what I have read and heard several of the islands in the Northern Bahamas have been decimated with a loss of life yet to be fully accounted for. Other islands have experienced significant damage from flooding and high winds. Thankfully, my daughter Amanda and her family have been spared from the worst of the storm.

I have been in contact with my friend and colleague, Bishop Laish Boyd, who many of you may remember from the 150th Celebration. He will let us know next steps in helping to bring relief once the emergency response teams have assessed the full extent of the damage.

In the coming weeks I will issue a more comprehensive view on what can be done to assist all the areas affected. In the meantime, if you feel called to send an immediate donation, please address it to the Diocese of Easton (314 North Street, Easton, MD 21601) with the note "Bahamas Hurricane Relief" and we will ensure that it reaches the right hands.

Above all, I ask for your prayers for the people who have been impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Remember them and pray for them for they will be cleaning up from this storm for many years to come.

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The Right Rev. Santosh Marray
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton

Almighty God, who has taught in your holy word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve your children: Look with pity upon those in our communities who have experienced the devastating effects of storms and flooding. May you comfort those we have lost loved ones, homes and belongings, grant healing to those who are injured and give strength to first responders, community leaders and all others involved with restoring order and creating safe spaces for the displaced. Grant to all affected the hope and new life that Jesus brings to us. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen!