



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIocese OF LAFAYETTE

1408 CARMEL DRIVE

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70501-5215

TELEPHONE: 337-261-5614 FAX: 337-261-5603

September 1, 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father:

The Diocese of Lake Charles has suffered catastrophic damages in the wake of Hurricane Laura which made landfall on August 27, 2020. The Diocese of Lake Charles was founded on January 29, 1980 out of the most western part of the Diocese of Lafayette. We, therefore, feel a special concern for our daughter Diocese which has experienced devastating losses. While Lake Charles is in need of many volunteer and material resources, Bishop Provost has communicated to me that their most pressing need is for financial assistance at this time.

I am, therefore, directing that a special *Diocese of Lake Charles Recovery Collection* be taken up on the weekend of September 12th and 13th in all parishes in the Diocese of Lafayette. Donations from this collection will go directly to the Diocese of Lake Charles for disaster relief. For those who wish to donate sooner, a special link on the diolaf.org home page has been created for donations by credit card to this collection.

It will take months, if not years, for the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles to recover from the crushing losses by Hurricane Laura, one of the strongest hurricanes ever recorded in Louisiana history. Please ask your parishioners to make a sacrificial gift to help relieve the suffering of the people of the entire five civil parish region which encompasses the Diocese of Lake Charles. Please remember them in your prayers and, pray also for the repose of the souls of those who died as a result of the hurricane.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D.
Bishop of Lafayette

JDD:mhb

enclosures: Announcement to be read at Masses on the weekend of September 5th and 6th
Bulletin Message regarding Hurricane Laura Response

N.B.: Please remit contributions with a parish check to the "Diocese of Lafayette"—with the notation, "Diocese of Lake Charles Recovery Collection," and have the bookkeeper utilize PDS Account Number 252600 Hurricane-National.