



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

THE MOST REVEREND ERIK T. POHLMEIER

October 1, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Sept. 24, Florida was struck by Category 4 Hurricane Helene, marking the third major hurricane to hit the state's Big Bend region in just 13 months. Many rural areas in our diocese, including Cedar Key and Horseshoe Beach, have been devastated once again. It's the third blow for these communities after Hurricanes Idalia and Debbie, making recovery efforts even more challenging.

Residents of other rural counties across the diocese have also been severely impacted. Many have lost their homes, livelihoods and irreplaceable belongings accumulated over a lifetime. The path to recovery will be long, and for some, it may take years to rebuild what was destroyed.

The Catholic Charities Bureau (CCB) of the Diocese of St. Augustine has a long history of supporting communities in long-term disaster recovery. They provide essential services such as home repairs, temporary housing, replacement of lost items, food, disaster kits, case management and emotional support. Their team remains on the ground, walking alongside survivors long after the media and emergency response teams have left.

I urgently need your help to continue offering hope and assistance to those affected by Hurricane Helene in our diocese. Your monetary donation will enable us to meet immediate and long-term needs that are often unmet by other relief efforts.

In addition, I anticipate that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will call for a special collection for disaster relief to assist communities across the country impacted by Hurricane Helene. More details will be shared as they become available. Please be assured that your generosity will extend to many who are suffering across the U.S.

You can donate online by visiting Catholic Charities' website at <https://www.ccbdosa.org/donate> or by sending a check to:

Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc.
3100 University Blvd. South, Suite 250
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Please rest assured that 100% of your donation will go directly to recovery efforts in the Diocese of St. Augustine. No administrative fees will be deducted. If you have any questions or need further information, please call (904) 899-5506.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us rebuild our communities.

In Christ,



Most Reverend Erik T. Pohlmeier
Bishop of St. Augustine