

BISHOP'S OFFICE  
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## Diocesan Response To Assist Those Affected By Hurricane Irene

The magnitude of devastation to families, farmers, businesses and local communities is astronomical due to Hurricane Irene. Initially, emergency response will include shelter, food, medicine, and counseling. Then it will transition into the long haul of insurance and FEMA claims to restore homes, crops and places of business. The struggle to meet basic human needs will last long after the clean-up is over: affordable, safe housing has to be found; children need to prepare for the upcoming school year; and soon after the need to replace warm winter clothing and to pay for heat and electricity – the list goes on. Efforts to restore the lives of everyone affected by Hurricane Irene will continue for a very long time.

During the Masses this weekend or one of the weekends in September, I am asking you to take up a collection to meet the emergency needs of our neighbors desecrated by Hurricane Irene.

Please send your parish collection check to:

Catholic Charities  
Irene Relief Fund  
40 North Main Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203

I am grateful for you continued generosity.

P.S. Eight to ten of our parish facilities have suffered damages from the storm but this is covered by our diocesan insurance plan. This collection will not be used to address church losses.