



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



October 13, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In the Gospel of Luke, our Lord teaches His disciples, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)

Ever conscious of this teaching I wish to inform you, the People of God in the Diocese of Fort Worth, of your generous and overwhelming response to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Southeast Texas who were so devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

The faithful people of the Diocese of Fort Worth generously contributed \$428,679 through the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund Second Collection. This sum added to other contributions made directly to Catholic Charities of Fort Worth (our agent of direct outreach to Harvey survivors) and a \$150,000 contribution from Catholic Charities USA means that we are contributing \$690,000 in direct assistance to our brothers and sisters impacted by the storm.

Your contributions are being used through Catholic Charities of Fort Worth to provide long-term care management services, to cover the cost of providing temporary housing for Hurricane Harvey families and to provide for other immediate needs.

Catholic Charities of Fort Worth helped process 139 families who evacuated to our area, 93 of whom involve intensive cases which will require such long-term and holistic help as housing, financial planning, job placement, school enrollment, health services, life coaching and more. Already 67 families are in permanent housing. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is supplying household furnishing to these families. Seven families now have a member who is employed and able to provide for self-sufficiency. Because FEMA assistance is coming to an end, families are now turning to our Catholic Charities for much needed assistance.

In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth went to the disaster area twice (once for an 8-day period and once for a 6-day period) with a team consisting of 8 to 13 staff and five volunteers. This team devoted more than 1,300 hours of help. In addition, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth assisted the Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston by answering calls from victims and performing the all-important "in-take" task of people seeking assistance. During the 3-week period more than 800 families were served.

Our brothers and sisters and their bishops in Southeast Texas are so very grateful for our generosity. As your proud bishop, I thank God and also you for your generous and merciful response made as part of your vibrant life of faith. Let us continue to pray for each other. With prayerful best wishes I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD
Bishop of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER