



## *Diocese of Rockford*

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Office of the Bishop

January 7, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have all been following, in prayer and human concern, the plight of our fellow Christians and Catholics as severe weather, in the form of violent storms, tornados, and floods impacted states in the South and Midwest regions of our country. Additional major flooding is expected over the next several weeks as rivers and tributaries continue to rise. As that happens, and the weather continues to grow colder, communities might very well have to contend with freezing and icing of their initial flood damage. And while the poor are hardest hit by the conditions, many will have vast unmet needs.

In response to this widespread human suffering, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has written to all bishops asking that each diocese take up a one-time special collection. This collection will be used by Catholic Charities USA as they, and their member agencies, respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care, as well as to the long term need to rebuild and recover after widespread destruction.

Accordingly, I am asking that all parishes take up this special collection on the weekend of January 9-10, 2016. Please do what you can to contribute to this immediate need and join in this effort to support of all those suffering from these natural disasters.

With gratitude for your prayers and your generosity, I am

Sincerely yours in Christs,

Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford