



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 30, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

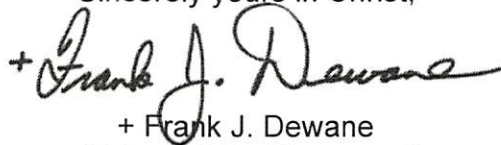
As the Thanksgiving Holiday approaches, all are no doubt grateful for the blessings the Lord has bestowed. At the same time, we are cognizant that, for many, challenges and difficulties are faced in the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and for them, Thanksgiving may look quite different this year.

Throughout the Diocese of Venice, the devastation caused by these Hurricanes is visible. Families in coastal areas were impacted by flooding, while others inland also suffered wind damage or were struck by tornadoes. Homes have been damaged, some severely, and lives have been disrupted. Parishes have also had facilities damaged by the storms. Catholic Charities, among others, has been working to provide assistance at designated sites, distributing water, food, tarps, cleaning supplies, and other basic necessities.

In response to these recent hurricanes, Parishes in the Diocese of Venice will take up a special collection on the weekend of November 16 and 17, 2024. This collection will help provide for continuing needs, as well as the efforts of Catholic Charities in providing both immediate and long-term assistance to the impacted. It is asked that those who are able, consider donating to help our brothers and sisters in their time of need. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection, which had been scheduled for that weekend, will be replaced with the Hurricane Relief Collection.

Thank you for your kindness and profound generosity towards all those affected. Your compassion towards those in need fulfills the Lord's command to "love your neighbor as yourself." Please know of my prayers for all throughout the Diocese as hurricane recovery continues.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

FJD/cg