



**Hurricane Maria
Puerto Rico
Emergency Collection**

OFFICE *of the* BISHOP

My friends in the Diocese of Des Moines,

After the devastations of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, we were prone to believe that the worst was over.

Not so. Hurricane Maria came with its unbelievable fury and nearly totally destroyed Puerto Rico. The island continues to experience enormous suffering and the re-building process will require months and months. Certainly our ongoing personal support is called for.

With all of this tragedy, I realize that compassion and collection fatigue set in. But this is the time that we need to reach deeper than ever and perhaps our authentic compassion is tested.

Since the need is so extensive, I ask that a special collection for the victims of Hurricane Maria be taken up. The need of those affected pales in comparison to our resources which admittedly have been stretched.

I ask that an emergency collection be arranged in each of our parishes on a weekend that is convenient between now and Monday, November 13th. The generosity of our people will be forwarded to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for direct distribution to those in need as well as providing for the immense re-building that will be required by the people and the Catholic Churches.

The results of the Parish Collections can be sent to the Pastoral Center, Office of Finance with the clear designation that they are for "Hurricane Maria" relief. Personal contributions can be made directly through the Pastoral Center. Contact should be made with the Development Office at 515-237-5083. Donations can be made via credit card, online or check.

Again, thank you for solidarity with neighbors in extraordinary need. Our prayers and financial support will make a significant difference. And on behalf of the recipients of your generosity, permit me to extend heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard E. Pates".

The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines