

# NEWS

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ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

## Area Catholics raise \$500,000 to help victims of 'Katrina'

Roman Catholics in the 12-county Diocese of Rochester have raised approximately \$500,000 to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Bishop of Rochester Matthew H. Clark announced today.

"I am both delighted and awed by the response of Roman Catholics in our diocese," Bishop Clark said. "Their spirit of generosity never ceases to amaze me, whether the need is in our own community or for this tremendous suffering hundreds of miles away. I hope and pray that this money and other efforts we are undertaking will help in the cause of rebuilding the lives and hopes of all affected by this tragedy. We will do all we can with as much as we can."

The money raised thus far by special collections and fundraisers in more than 150 parishes and Catholic faith communities is being channeled to the national Catholic Charities USA, which is playing a key role in relief efforts in the disaster area. Nationally, Catholic Charities USA has raised more than \$30 million.

In addition to relief money, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester has appointed a special coordinator for local efforts to aid hurricane victims. Deacon John McDermott is functioning as a resource for relief information and communication for Catholic Charities agencies in the Diocese and parishes, as well as a liaison with Catholic Charities USA in Washington, D.C. Additional actions are planned.

"Even as we help the victims of Katrina, we are watching Hurricane Rita carefully and will widen our effort as we need to," McDermott said.

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