



January 13, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The news has been filled with reports of the earthquake that rocked Haiti earlier this week, and in particular the capital, Port-au-Prince.

There are reports that many buildings have been demolished, both substantial ones, such as the Cathedral and the Governor's Palace, as well as the homes of the people of Haiti, many of whom already number among the poorest of the poor.

Catholic Relief Services made an immediate commitment of \$5 million for emergency supplies, and plans to continue to respond as specific needs become more apparent. More than 50 CRS personnel work in Haiti and they are ready to assist in whatever way they can.

To aid this relief effort, I am asking that each parish take up a special collection for emergency relief in Haiti, the weekend of January 16-17 and/or the weekend of January 23-24. Please process contributions as you do for a national collection and use a parish check to forward the proceeds as soon as possible to the Diocese. In turn, we will forward the diocesan proceeds to Catholic Relief Services.

You can obtain more information about this tragedy from the Catholic Relief Services website: www.crs.org. The site also allows for on-line contributions.

Finally, please remember the people of Haiti and those who are working to provide assistance to them with a prayer during the Prayers of the Faithful at Liturgy.

Thanking you in advance for your generous response, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "George Leo Thomas".

Most Reverend George Leo Thomas
Bishop of Helena

O F F I C E O F T H E B I S H O P

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