



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIocese OF TUCSON

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

September 3, 2021

Dear Pastors and Pastoral Administrators,

As you are aware, our brothers and sisters in Haiti are experiencing catastrophic and devastating suffering from the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit them on August 14th. Cardinal Chibly Langlois of Les Cayes, who was injured in the collapse of his residence where a priest and two employees were killed, reports that 633 churches, chapels, rectories, health centers and schools were destroyed or damaged. We can help them rebuild!

In the short term, humanitarian assistance is needed - and thankfully the US and other governments are helping along with NGOs including Catholic Relief Services. When the initial emergency is over, many of those who have come to help or have brought humanitarian assistance will go home. The Church will remain to serve the people.

Governments and others will contribute to humanitarian relief, but not to rebuild parish churches, schools, clinics, and chapels that are essential to the Church's mission in this poor nation. The only resources that the Church in Haiti can count on long-term are those provided by the Catholic people with their characteristic generosity to the USCCB emergency collection.

I ask you to take up an emergency collection on the weekend of September 11 – 12, 2021. Our support in prayer and sharing of material resources will help heal and restore hope to the thousands of victims. Please send the proceeds from this special collection, by check made out to the Diocese of Tucson, and mailed to Dcn. Greg Henderson, Chief Financial Officer, who will then forward your contributions to the USCCB Emergency Disaster Fund.

Help the Haitian Church serve her people and rebuild quake destroyed ecclesial properties. Thank you for your compassionate response to this request for our brothers and sisters in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Bishop of Tucson