

Archdiocese of Detroit

To: All Concerned Persons

From: Michael W. Hovey, director, Office for Catholic Social Teaching
Joyce Steele, director, Office for Catholic Social Action

Date: September 9, 2005

Re: Archdiocesan Responses to Katrina Evacuees in Metro Detroit

With the arrival in Michigan of people forced to leave the Gulf Region because of the effects of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, the people of the Archdiocese of Detroit have extended a warm welcome to our brothers and sisters in need in several ways:

As of Friday afternoon, September 9, contributions from the people of the Archdiocese of Detroit to Catholic Charities USA for the victims of the hurricane totaled \$439,728.00. 80% of this amount has come from individuals, with 20% of the collections taken up in parishes counted thus far. It is expected that the amount will increase greatly as more parishes turn in their collected donations.

An Ad Hoc Task Force has been formed to oversee the various initiatives being taken by offices and agencies within the archdiocese. Michael Hovey and Joyce Steele have been named to be the “points of contact” for those seeking information about the evacuees and/or for those with questions about how our Church can assist them. Michael Hovey can be reached at (313) 237-4678 or by e-mail at hovey.michael@aod.org. Joyce Steele can be reached at (313) 237-5905 or by e-mail at steele.joyce@aod.org.

A number of evacuees are being temporarily housed at the Ramada Inn and the Howard Johnson Hotel in Southfield, as well as the Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights. (We understand that one or more hotels in northern Oakland County may also receive some evacuees.)

*****Fr. Clarence Williams, CPPS, director of the Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Detroit, will celebrate a Mass for the evacuees at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 11, at the Ramada Inn, located at 17017 West Nine Mile Road, in Southfield.**

All the evacuees will receive invitations to the liturgy. The Howard Johnson Hotel is located close to the Ramada Inn, where the Mass will be held. The management of the Sterling Inn has offered to transport any of their guests who wish to attend Mass, either in Southfield or in neighboring Macomb County parishes. Local parishes are encouraged to send a representative to the Mass to serve as “welcomers” and offer the hospitality of their parishes in the coming weeks.

As more evacuees arrive in the area, efforts will be made to reach out to them as well. Several lay service organizations, such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus, are already doing their part. While the evacuees at these hotels have most of their immediate needs met, they will be seeking assistance in finding housing and jobs. Representatives of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Catholic Social Services will be available for help with these issues beginning next week.

Additionally, a number of “self-deployed” residents from the Gulf Coast have relocated in southeastern Michigan. As our parishes and social service agencies become aware of these evacuees, they are reaching out to provide whatever assistance is needed. In Oakland County, for example, the archdiocese is helping to fund an effort by Catholic Social Services to provide identification and other basic necessities to these individuals and their families.

Habitat for Humanity in Detroit will make two newly constructed homes available for evacuee families.

This week's *Michigan Catholic* newspaper features a number of stories about Catholic-based efforts on the local and national level. (Because of flood damage, the offices of the Archdiocese of New Orleans have been temporarily moved to Baton Rouge.)

The archdiocesan web site (www.AODonline.org) is kept up to date with the latest information about local food and clothing collections. There are also prayers and liturgical resources posted for schools and parishes.

Sr. Frances Nadolny, OP, director of education for the Archdiocese, has made scholarships available to schools that can take in evacuee students, at \$400 per pupil. Fr. Ted Parker, OSC, pastor of Detroit's St. Cecilia Parish, has offered to take as many students as possible for free at St. Cecilia Elementary School; other schools have also expressed a willingness to work with displaced students.

On Friday, September 16, the National Day of Prayer for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the AOD Central Services Day at Sacred Heart Major Seminary will conclude with a special archdiocesan prayer service at 3 p.m. Bishop John Quinn will preside at this prayer service. We invite the seminary community and anyone else who would like to join us to come to the seminary at that time. Parishes are also encouraged to offer prayer services on this day.

Important Contact Numbers:

To Donate Clothing and/or Furniture:

FEMA	800-440-6728
Saint Vincent De Paul	313-972-3100
Salvation Army	313-962-5960
Goodwill Industries	313-964-3900
Foot Solutions	734-591-3388

To Donate Large Quantities of Food:

Companies, Manufacturers or Retailers (Second Harvest's Food Sourcing Dept.)	800-771-2303
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To Look for Missing Family Members:

Red Cross	877-568-3317 www.redcross.org
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To Register for Family Placement:

Catholic Charities USA	703-549-1390 ext. 162 www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
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To Volunteer to Help:

Medical Personnel	www.hospitalreliefforts.org
Salvation Army	800-SAL ARMY
Red Cross	800-HELP NOW
Feed the Children	800-525-7575

Other Hotline Numbers:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	866-641-8102
FEMA to register for disaster relief assistance	www.fema.gov
	800-621-3362
United Way: Housing, Food, Medical	313-226-9453

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