

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

January 16/17, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend in the Archdiocese of Hartford we are announcing a special collection to be taken up for the relief and development efforts of Catholic Relief Services in response to the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday. (The collection may be taken up next weekend if that is more suitable, but it should be done as soon as possible.) The earthquake has taken an unknown number of human lives and destroyed what little infrastructure existed in the capital city of Port au Prince and the surrounding areas. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and was still recovering from deadly 2008 hurricanes when the quake struck.

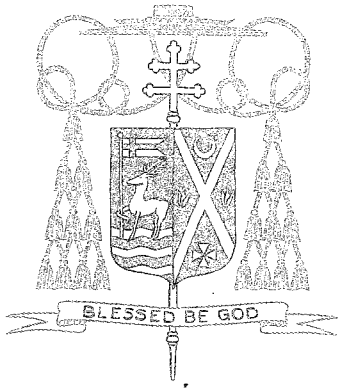
Catholic Relief Services, which has been working in Haiti for 55 years, has made an initial commitment of 5 million dollars for immediate use in the relief effort and is geared up for a major emergency response to this severe disaster. CRS is mobilizing food aid, deploying prepositioned emergency shelter and hygiene kits in Haiti, as well as bringing supplies in from the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Thank you for any contribution you can make today (or next weekend) and please join me in praying for the Haitian people that help and comfort come to them quickly. We know God is with them in their suffering.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry J. Mansell".

Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford



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January 14, 2010

Dear Monsignor/Father:

Enclosed is an appeal letter for a special collection for Haiti that I am asking to be read this weekend at all Masses. If you think the collection should be taken up the following week, that is agreeable, but it should be done as soon as feasible. We will be sending our archdiocesan special collection to Catholic Relief Services, which has a 55 year history in Haiti and is mobilized and already responding to this disaster.

I am very grateful to those parishes with missions in Haiti. Please know of my support and prayers for the losses that will be deeply personal for you and the members of your parish.

If you have any questions or need support in any way, please contact Cori Thibodeau at The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry. She is our Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Director and will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your generosity and attention to this matter.

Be assured of my grateful prayers as we continue to pray and support the people of Haiti.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford

Please send contributions to:

The Chancery
134 Farmington Ave
Hartford, CT 06105
Please put "**Haiti**" in the memo line.