



Diocese of Springfield

Office of the Bishop

August 18, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Like many of you, in recent days and with tremendous sadness, I have read news articles and watched television reports on the devastating effects of the massive 7.2 earthquake which struck the impoverished country of Haiti on August 14.

Unfortunately, this is a place that is no stranger to tragedies, both natural and man-made. Many of the people, even in the best of times, live in destitute poverty and they look to the Catholic churches to assist them. This recent natural disaster has impacted the churches as well, leaving tens of thousand struggling just to find safe shelter, food, and care for their families.

It is at just such a moment that we are called by our Lord and Savior to reach out in true Christian charity to help those who have so little.

I invite you, therefore, to prayerfully consider making a special offering for the people of Haiti through your parish in the coming weeks. These funds will be gathered from across the diocese and then distributed to Catholic Relief Services, as well as given directly to the local dioceses in Haiti which were most impacted by this earthquake.

I am asking all parishes to take up a special collection on the weekends of August 21/22 and August 28/29. To expedite this collection, if you wish to donate via check, please make it payable to your parish and put in the notation "Haiti 2021 Collection."

Lastly, I ask that you join me in prayer for the people of Haiti, that they will know that our loving God is with them, especially in such difficult times. May we demonstrate God's love for them through this act of charity.

In prayerful gratitude,

Most Rev. William D. Byrne
Bishop of Springfield