



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### *Bishop Requests Special Collection for Disaster Relief*

(HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA) – As residents of Puerto Rico deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and residents of Central Mexico recover from a devastating earthquake, Bishop Mark Bartchak is once again calling on the faithful of Altoona-Johnstown to offer prayerful and financial support to the victims.

In a letter to clergy today, the Bishop asked that all parishes in the Diocese take up a special collection for disaster relief as soon as possible. Pastors and Parochial Administrators may choose to take up this urgent collection at all Masses on one of the following weekends: September 30-October 1; October 7-8; or October 14-15. All money collected will go to Catholic Charities USA, which is already assisting in the affected areas.

“I urge everyone to be as generous as possible,” Bishop Bartchak said. “I extend my thanks to all for their prayers and financial assistance in this time of need.”

Just one month ago, the Bishop asked parishes to take up a special collection to assist victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and other affected areas. The support was overwhelming, the Bishop noted. “The generous response from the people of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown exceeded expectations,” he said. “I am most grateful for this important work of mercy.”