ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

December 13, 2021

Dear Father:

May God bless you during this holy season of Advent! In solidarity with our Holy Father Pope Francis, I extend my deep sympathy to the many communities throughout several states and in particular, to our neighbors in the Diocese of Owensboro in Western Kentucky, who were so severely affected by this past weekend's devastating tornadoes. I join with all of the prayers of Catholics offered in parishes this weekend for the repose of the souls who lost their lives and for their loved ones. I pledge support for those who have lost homes, treasured possessions, and businesses due to these storms. May God's tender love comfort those who are mourning so much loss.

We have received many calls from parishes and individuals about how to help. I was in communication with Bishop Bill Medley over the weekend, and he was very grateful for the outpouring of support. I am immediately sending financial support to the Diocese of Owensboro, and I invite all pastors to hold a special collection the weekend of December 18-19.

Donations will respond to immediate emergency humanitarian needs and will aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts as well as in any pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

Proceeds should be forwarded to:
Archdiocese of Louisville
ATTN: 2021 Owensboro Relief
3940 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213-1463

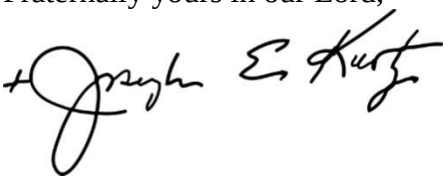
Checks should include a notation: 2021 Owensboro Relief and should be made payable to the Archdiocese of Louisville.

I also would like to share with you the communication received from our Holy Father, transmitted by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin yesterday and shared with Archbishop Gomez, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

“The Holy Father was saddened to learn of the devastating impact of the tornadoes that struck the central and southwest United States in these days. He offers heartfelt prayers that Almighty God will grant eternal peace to those who have died, comfort those who mourn their loss, and strength to all those affected by this immense tragedy. With gratitude for the tireless efforts of the rescue workers and all engaged in caring for the injured, the grieving families and those left homeless, Pope Francis invokes upon all engaged in the massive work of relief and rebuilding the Lord’s gift of strength and generous perseverance in the service of their brothers and sisters.”

Please keep all affected in your prayers. As always, you are in my prayers.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,



Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville