



**THE DIOCESE  
OF COLORADO**

**The Right Reverend  
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Dear Friends,

The devastation and human suffering left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina is so great that it is difficult to comprehend, and none of us are left unmoved. As the images of need continue to roll in from the Gulf Coast, many here are now asking what they can do to help.

Having spoken with colleagues in other dioceses and with those coordinating relief efforts on the ground, it is clear that the most immediate need is financial. Although in-kind contributions and volunteer assistance is helpful and will be increasingly needed in many locations in the days ahead, we are told that cash contributions are the most useful, direct and cost-effective way to provide assistance right now.

With that in mind, The Diocese of Colorado and the Colorado Episcopal Foundation have released \$50,000 out of our emergency relief funds to Episcopal Relief and Development. In turn, I am making a special appeal to every congregation in the Diocese of Colorado to contribute financially to the relief of Katrina's victims.

Contributions collected by each congregation can be sent directly to Episcopal Relief and Development - <http://www.er-d.org/>, 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129; c/o US Hurricane Fund, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101. Or, they can be sent to The Diocese of Colorado, and we will see that they go directly to relief efforts.

You should know that Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) has already released funds both to the affected dioceses and to the surrounding dioceses who are now providing aid to those who have been displaced. ERD is working closely with the bishops of these dioceses and is focusing their efforts on providing aid to refugees.

In order that you may have some understanding of the relief work that ERD and the Episcopal Church are already undertaking, I am attaching to this letter a fact sheet with additional information.

It is important to remember that the recovery from this disaster will be a long-term process and will require a sustained effort from all of us. You can expect (1) that I will remain in close contact with the leadership of other dioceses, (2) that we in The Diocese of Colorado will identify additional ways of responding to this great need, including organizing volunteer and refugee resettlement efforts, and (3) that I will continue to invite your participation.

Clearly the need is great, but so too are hearts of the people of God in Colorado. I ask for your generous financial support and for your prayers for those who suffer. God's peace and blessing be with you.

Faithfully,

Bishop O'Neill