



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 13, 2025

Dear Father:

Once again, our nation has seen immense wide-spread devastation caused by wildfires in Southern California. As fast-moving wildfires, fueled by high winds, continue to engulf neighborhoods in the Los Angeles area, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), the official domestic relief agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., has launched a dedicated disaster relief donation campaign. **All funds raised will assist those displaced or suffering because of the fires.** One hundred percent of all donations will be allocated to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, which will provide critical humanitarian relief to those most in need.

I am requesting parishes to take up a special emergency collection for Catholic Charities USA to assist in the response efforts to the fires and destruction. Also, please publicize in your bulletin, social media, and announcements that gifts can be made through the collection, online, or by text. Gifts can also be made online by going to: [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) and clicking on the LA Wildfires Disaster Relief "Give Now" button, or by texting "FIRES" to 20406. The wildfires have destroyed residential neighborhoods and driven more than 100,000 from their homes this week. Tragically, the death toll continues to rise.

I know the generosity of our people and their deep care for those in need. I trust that you will find the best way of making these needs known to the faithful of your parish community and I have confidence in their prayerful consideration and generous support. Please include an intercession for all those affected by the fires in the Universal Prayer at Masses.

I ask you to join me in continuing to offer prayers for families who have lost loved ones, are among those injured, those who have lost their homes and livelihood, and those that continue to work combatting the fires and restore safety. Please ask your community members to be as generous as possible.

Proceeds from the collection should be forwarded, in a timely manner, to:

Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept 294  
PO Box 8000  
Buffalo, NY 14267  
*Memo portion of the check: California Wildfires*

With assurances of my grateful and prayerful best wishes, I am

Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher  
Bishop of Buffalo

Cc: Joe Martone, Communications  
Julie Heftka, Comptroller