



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Richmond

June 26, 2026

Dear Pastors and Parish Administrators,

Many of you have watched the heartbreaking videos and pictures of the effects of the devastating twin earthquakes that recently struck northern Venezuela, with its destruction through Caracas, La Guaira, and surrounding regions.

I encourage you to pray for those who lost their lives, the hundreds who remain injured or displaced, and their families who are grieving. We commend them to the healing power of Our Lord and the maternal protection of Our Lady of Coromoto, patroness of Venezuela.

I am writing today to encourage support for our Catholic community and the suffering people of Venezuela. I ask that each parish make a special appeal or take up a collection during the weekend of July 11th and 12th or a following weekend.

This special collection will go to support the humanitarian response led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) who is already on the ground assessing immediate needs and providing emergency aid. Please note that all collections and gifts should be sent to the Diocesan Finance Office with a memo for Venezuela Earthquake Relief.

Most of all, please continue to pray for those impacted by this tragic event and thank you for your prayers and generosity.

With my gratitude and every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond