



Committee on National Collections

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194
202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

April 17, 2019

My Brother Bishops,

This week we watched with sadness as fire tore through historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, causing severe damage to the centuries-old structure. The Cathedral's place in history is unsurpassed as a symbol of medieval Christian Europe and a pilgrimage site for Christians all over the world. It housed essential relics, including those related to the crucifixion of Christ. The impact of the fire on the faithful of the city and of the world is immense and the full extent will not be known for some time.

You and the parishioners of your dioceses have been generous with prayers, outreach, and donations in past disaster situations. I know that many of you are getting calls about how our Church will respond to this tragic event. I am confident that the world population will come to the aid of the Archdiocese of Paris. Rather than issuing a formal request for a national appeal, I would like to offer some guidance in the event that your (arch)diocese takes up a special collection locally or receives donated funds for this purpose.

Please know that the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, has set up a fund to help the Cathedral resurrect and rebuild. The Shrine, whose Board of Members consists of the Administrative Committee of the USCCB, has the infrastructure to manage donated funds and established relationships to provide the necessary and appropriate due diligence on the distribution of funds. I have been assured that all proceeds received will be used solely for the assistance of Notre Dame Cathedral and those affected by this tragedy.

Funds collected or received can be sent to: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Attn: Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector, 400 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017. Checks should be made payable to "Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception"; indicate "Cathedral of Notre Dame Fund" in the memo portion of the check.

With gratitude for your unwavering support and prayers for a blessed Triduum and a joyous Easter. I am

In the Heart of Christ,

Paul D. Etienne

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne
Archbishop of Anchorage
Chairman, USCCB Committee on National Collections