

Working to Reduce Poverty in America.





Parish Social Ministry and Disaster Services April 10, 2018



Webinar Logistics



- ✓ The webinar is being recorded.
- ✓ The phone lines or computer speakers are being muted.



- You may use the Chat feature or 'raise your hand icon' for comments or questions during the presentation.
- ✓ We will have time for Q & A at the end. The lines will be open/unmuted at that time.
- ✓ All questions not addressed during the webinar will receive an email response.



CCUSA Parish Social Ministry Leadership Team



This webinar is hosted by the Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Parish Social Ministry Leadership Team, which is the steering committee of the CCUSA Parish Social Ministry Special Interest Section (Section).

CCUSA's PSM Section is a community that provides networking opportunities as well as networking opportunities, resources, and skill development for parish social ministry professionals and volunteers at Catholic Charities agencies and associated parishes.

The CCUSA PSM Leadership Team produces webinars (like this one), publishes newsletters and other printed resources, develops national trainings and workshops, and offers consultation services to fellow parish social ministers.

Sign up to receive CCUSA's PSM email blasts at the "Email Signup" button at the bottom of the home page of CCUSA's website : <u>www.catholiccharitiesusa.org</u>

Today's Presenters





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Chris Austgen, Coordinator, Food Pantry and Social Services Ministry, Mary Queen Catholic Church, Friendswood, Texas

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Opening Prayer



God of hope and mercy, we lift up to you all victims of natural disasters and those responding with assistance and aid. Protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Help all people of good will respond with compassion and generous hearts. Amen.

(from CCUSA's "Prayer for Disaster Relief" - https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/prayers)

Catholic Teaching on Disaster Response



Themes:

- Disasters disproportionately impact the poor in our country and around the world
- We are called to show solidarity and provide immediate compassionate response
- Our service delivery must promote the dignity of the human person
- Practice care for our common home, responding to the earth's cry for help











- We are stewards of the GIFT of creation
- The cry of the poor and the cry of the earth are intertwined
- Examine relationships between persons, communities and the natural environment

Laudato Si'





ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS

- We are stewards of the GIFT of creation
- Human activity causes climate change
- Climate change precipitates disasters
- Human and natural environments
 deteriorate together
- Climate change disproportionately impacts the poor
- The cry of the poor and the cry of the earth are intertwined
- Concern for refugees and displaced persons

2016 International Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters



Pope Francis' appeal:

- "...natural disasters could be avoided or at least limited, since their effects are often due to a lack of environmental care by human beings..."
- "I renew my heartfelt appeal for the safeguarding of creation through increasingly careful protection and care for the environment."
- "I therefore encourage institutions and those who hold public and social responsibility increasingly to promote a culture that has the aim of reducing exposure to risks and to natural disasters."
- "May concrete actions, aimed at the study and defense of the common home, progressively reduce the risks for the most vulnerable populations."

Click here to read more.

2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction



Pope Francis wrote:

Three areas of concern for disaster risk reduction

- 1. *"…reinforce the work of prevention, education and training, in order to reduce the human, material and economic losses caused by natural disasters."*
- 2. "...consciousness-raising to pay special attention to those who are most vulnerable. Often the poor suffer most from natural disasters..."
- 3. "...recognition that the victims and those most vulnerable have an essential role to play in these processes of prevention, response and reconstruction."

Click here to read more.



Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding: Catholic Charities' Response in the Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey

Response | Task at Hand



The State of Texas has 41 Federally declared counties.

Over 900,000 FEMA registrations.

Over Half of all registrations are in Harris County





Overview | Approach



Immediately after the storm, CCGH opened **10 locations** in **3 counties**.

Collaboration with ArchGH, SVdP, Knights of Columbus, San Jose Clinic

Over 2,200 volunteers served in 3 weeks after storm

How We Collaborated | Relief

- **CCGH** provided basic needs, took in donations, distributed them, performed intakes and some referrals.
- **Parishes** provided local locations, took in donations, provided volunteers, conducted outreach, offered spiritual care and community groups



Response



100 A.







Response | Survivor Needs



Homes: mold remediation, muck & gutting, repair/rebuild, contents
Lost Jobs: financial needs
Vehicles
Emotional/Spiritual Trauma

Our Role



Our Role | What we do

We lead disaster survivors on their path to self-sufficiency.

Our Role | Services

Relief Basic Needs including

clothing, gift cards, food, water, cleaning supplies, and baby items.

Recovery Basic Needs

including rental/mortgage assistance, furniture, medical assistance, utility assistance and referrals.



Our Role | Long-Term Case Management



Our Role | Safe Harbor Program

Safe Harbor Program offers

temporary shelter to disaster survivors in apartments to give them a chance to find stability.

47 Units

3 month stays

Furniture Provided

Case Management



Parish Role



IELP our Lobby ors Dry

Complimentary Jmbrella Bags

Parish Role | Hindsight

Parishes can provide significant leverage of services.

Local (knowledge and clout)

Commitment to community

Receive resources

Local Collaboratives (See Houston Responds)



Parish Role | Services that Can be Provided

- Location (intakes, classes, counseling, outreach events)
- Basic Needs Reception/Distribution
- Outreach Teams
- Spiritual Care
- Advocates
- Advertising





HURRICANE HARVEY

MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS

Friendswood:

Located about 30 minutes south of Houston, Texas Population is just under 40,000

What happened in Friendswood:
 Started raining on Saturday, August 26
 Stopped raining on Tuesday, August 29
 Friendswood received 56 inches of rain according to the Weather Channel
 3000 homes in Friendswood flooded (plus businesses)

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facebook





- Catholic Charities Disaster Training
- Catholic Charities could have an information sheet with local contact information
- Cover the situation in prayer Prayer cards to be handed out. Prayers coming from across nation.
- This is new territory for us we need some direction
- * Make sure the help you are offering is help that is needed
- Social media
- Pray Pay Stay (away)



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Jose's Gift





https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/m agazines/charities-usa-winter-2018-1

Disaster Operations Community of Practice



✓ Help determine our collective future!

✓ Become involved

Let us know your interested in joining the Disaster Operations Community of Practice by sending an email to: <u>DisasterOperations@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org</u>

Questions??

Comments??

Closing Prayer

(Prayed at Mary Queen Catholic Church, Friendswood, Texas)

Loving God, we come to you trusting in your mercy and knowing that your steadfast love endures forever.

Look with mercy on those who are harmed or displaced by flood waters.

Give them your strength to meet the days ahead, your peace which passes all understanding, and new hope in the resurrection.

Move in those who are able to give aid, that we may be your hands and heart through the aftermath.

Be with all who offer assistance, may your Spirit uphold them.

As you have made water a sign of Your Kingdom, and of cleansing and rebirth, grant Your people vision to see new life and hope.

Let our faith and works shine light in the darkness and despair.

We know that when we praise you through the storm, we will see a rainbow on the other side.

To You be given all honor and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

