



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Clergy, Religious Communities, and Parishes

FROM: Rev. Alfred Omar Guerrero, Director

DATE: August 9, 2023

RE: **Liturgical Resources for Natural Disasters**

In light of the devastating wildfires that are burning in our Hawai'i home, as well as the current hurricane season, we have put together a list of liturgical/prayer resources for natural disasters, to which we invite you to add your own suggestions. In addition to our response in faith through prayer, we encourage you to participate in any relief efforts for disaster victims.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

- From Psalm 46

Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions

"Since the liturgy of the Sacraments and Sacramentals has as its effect that for the faithful who are properly disposed almost every event in life is sanctified by the divine grace that flows from the Paschal Mystery, and because the Eucharist is the Sacrament of Sacraments, the Missal provides examples of Mass formularies and orations that may be used in the various occasions of Christian life for the needs of the whole world or for the needs of the Church, whether universal or local." (GIRM, 368)

"Masses for Various Needs and Occasions are used in certain situations either as occasion arises or at fixed times." (GIRM, 373)

In the Civil Needs section of Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions there isn't anything specific for wildfires, but there is a series of collects corresponding to other types of natural disasters and weather needs.

- 34. In Time of Earthquake
- 35. For Rain
- 36. For Fine Weather
- 37. For an End to Storms

You may also use the presidential prayers from the Various Occasions section, 48. In Any Need. There are three options.

Liturgy Training Publications Intercessions: (The text below was posted on LTP's Facebook page)
Our prayers are with all those affected by these fires, and we offer these intercessions for use at liturgy or for daily or personal prayer:

- Make your Church a place of welcome and safety; enable Church communities to offer hospitality and practical support to all in need, we pray:
- In the midst of disaster beyond our control, empower us to reach out in love to others, mending what is broken, and bringing hope where there is despair, we pray:
- Where natural disasters are the result of environmental degradation, strengthen us to work for policies that protect humankind by protecting the environment, we pray:
- We pray for all who have suffered physical harm; help us to accompany and support them in the process of healing, we pray:
- We entrust to the arms of your mercy all those who have died; we hold in your love all who mourn their passing, we pray:

© 2020 Liturgy Training Publications

Simpler Intercessions that May Be Used for the Prayer of the Faithful

For those who suffer lost of their homes, we pray...

For those who have been injured in any way, during this natural disaster, we pray...

For the very young and for the elderly—our most vulnerable in natural disasters, we pray...

For those who have no jobs to return to, we pray...

For those whose places of worship have been destroyed, we pray...

For those whose families are scattered or temporarily displaced, we pray...

For those who need medications, food, or water, we pray...

For leaders and first responders in times of tragedy, we pray...

For volunteers who counsel, advise, and support victims of disaster, we pray...

Other Prayers

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength
in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos.
Surround us now with your grace and peace
through storm or earthquake, fire or flood.

By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen,
sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild,
and fill us with the hope of your new creation;
through You, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

Prayer for Protection During a Storm

Loving God, maker of heaven and earth, protect us in your love and mercy. Send the Spirit of Jesus to be with us, to still our fears and give us confidence. In the stormy waters, Jesus reassured his disciples by his presence, calmed the storm, and strengthened their faith. Guard us from harm during this storm and renew our faith to serve you faithfully. Give us the courage to face all difficulties and the wisdom to see the ways your Spirit binds us together in mutual assistance. With confidence we make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.