

Hurricane Assistance for Our Fellow Catholic Schools

The recent devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma is unimaginable. So many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have lost all they had, and are now struggling to begin again. Our fellow Catholic schools are no different. Many have suffered severe damage, as well as loss of the materials and tools necessary to help students succeed. In many cases, these schools have become a source of comfort and stability to families suffering from the impact of both storms.

As a community, we at IHM have formed a partnership with two schools who have suffered as a result of the hurricanes. We hope to help provide the students and faculty at these schools with the means to help rebuild their facilities and procure the materials they need to ensure their students' success.

The following is information focusing on our partner schools:

The Basilica School of Saint Mary, Star of the Sea- Key West, FL

The Basilica School of Saint Mary, Star of the Sea, is a Catholic School servicing students in grades Pre-K three through Eight. The school is attended by students across the Florida Keys, from Marathon to Key West itself. Faculty, staff, and the community at large work together to ensure that every family who desires a faith-filled education receives the opportunity to attend the school.



The recent tragedy of Hurricane Irma has caused significant damage to the Basilica school. In communicating with Robert Wright, the school's principal, we have learned that almost all areas of the building and grounds have sustained damages. The storm took all physical education equipment and caused mold and damage to books and technology devices, making them unsuitable for use. Classroom doors have begun rusting and corroding as a result of the salt water permeating the open hallways during the storm surge. Sadly, the school had recently broken ground on an activity center/gym for the children. The construction also suffered from rain and saltwater rust and corrosion, and could now be torn down. Developers are unable to determine when construction can begin again as a result of the damage. The school community is working to ensure that all students are able to continue to attend classes, regardless of changes in family situations. However, this is a difficult task, given the widespread destruction caused by the storm.

True Cross Catholic School- Dickinson, TX



True Cross Catholic School is a Pre-K-Eighth Grade institution located in the Houston area. It was the first parochial school founded in the Galveston County mainland, and has been providing a faith-filled educational experience to

students for over seventy years. The school is an integral part of the parish and surrounding community.

During Hurricane Harvey, True Cross sustained severe damage, and student learning has suffered drastically as a result. Damages included flooding within the school, as well as the loss of critical materials throughout the school. Water damage has also made technological equipment unsuitable for use. This has been a devastating loss for the students, staff, and faculty of TCGS. The school is working to “rebuild” each classroom through collection of tools and materials, including items such as expo markers, pencils, paper, crayons, and other necessary items. These materials are crucial in the classroom, as they are utilized by students and teachers daily. This has also proved to be a difficult task, again as a result of the scale of devastation left by Harvey.

As followers of Christ, it is our role to help others in times of difficulty, and we would like to achieve this by helping our partner Catholic Schools. We will be collecting gift cards to Amazon, Staples, Office Depot, and Wal-Mart for our friends in Key West and Dickinson. Additionally, we will collect monetary donations for both schools. If giving a monetary donation, please write a check made out to IHM, as we are unable to accept cash. On the note line of the check, please write the following: “Hurricane Help.” This way, we will be able to process donations in a timely fashion. Once all donations are received, the proceeds will be sent to the schools for use in rebuilding the school, as well as procuring necessary materials. Donations will be collected through Friday, October 13, 2017. Additionally, our students will communicate with both partner schools, providing love and support through prayer and fellowship. It is our hope that our friends in Texas and Florida find solace in God’s grace, and we believe our assistance will bring them some peace.

Thank you for your support, and may God’s love and healing pour out on all those in need. Saint Medard, champion of protection from storms, please pray for us!

