



Diocese of Austin

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Bishop encourages prayers, donations for fire relief

AUSTIN – Bishop Joe Vásquez issued the following statement today:

I ask everyone to join me in prayer for the individuals who suffered loss of life and the numerous families who have lost all their belongings and property in the wildfires in our area. Please also pray for the firefighters and all the government and volunteer agencies coordinating the disaster response.

I am pleased with the response from the entire community, Catholic and non-Catholic; so many have seen the needs of their brothers and sisters and have responded with generosity. I am especially thankful for Catholic Charities of Central Texas for organizing and collecting donations to help those who have suffered this tragedy.

The need is great. I ask you to consider how you may contribute to assist those affected by the fires. You can visit www.austindiocese.org and click on donate to make a donation. Donations of physical items can be delivered to Catholic Charities of Central Texas at Sixth and Chicon streets in Austin.

I plan to visit Ascension Parish in Bastrop tomorrow to meet personally with those staying at the shelter there.

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 127 parishes, or faith communities, in 25 counties in Central Texas. The diocese stretches over 21,000 square miles from West, Texas, (just north of Waco) in the north to San Marcos in the south to the Bryan/College Station area in the east to Mason in the west. Its largest metropolitan areas are Austin, Bryan/College Station, the Killeen/Temple/Belton area and Waco. There are more than 500,000 Catholics within the diocese. There are 225 priests, 197 deacons, approximately 46 brothers and 107 sisters serving in the diocese.