



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

April 29, 2015

Dear Monsignors, Fathers and Pastoral Director:

As you are aware, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in the late morning of April 25 just 50 miles northwest of the capital, Kathmandu, toppling buildings and homes, causing widespread panic and claiming more than 3,900 lives. The devastation and toll on human life is still becoming clear as rescue workers access the affected areas and people.

Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters affected by this powerful earthquake. Tens of thousands of families are sleeping outside and require shelter and protection. Aftershocks continue—increasing fear, causing further damage, and interrupting rescue operations. People urgently need basic essentials including shelter, blankets, safe water, food, medical care, hygiene and counseling. Hygiene and sanitation are critical to preventing waterborne diseases.

Working with Caritas Nepal, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has already begun to embark on a major emergency response to this severe disaster and has committed funds to extended relief efforts.

In communion with dioceses throughout the United States, **I ask that each parish in our diocese take up a special collection this weekend, May 2-3, or next weekend, May 9-10.** The funds collected will be used to support the efforts of CRS as they respond to both the immediate emergency needs and long-term needs of our affected brothers and sisters and the churches of the region.

**Due to the urgent and extraordinary needs of the people there, I ask that proceeds from this collection be sent as soon as possible to:**

Diocese of Grand Rapids  
Attn: Catholic Relief Services/Nepal Earthquake  
360 Division Ave. S  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Please send a single parish check made payable to:** “Diocese of Grand Rapids/ Nepal Earthquake”

It is difficult to grasp the scope of this tragedy. Your help and the help of Catholics throughout the United States are urgently needed. You have my sincere gratitude for your generous and timely response to the great needs which this country now faces.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids