



ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

ST. THOMAS CHAPEL • SPRINGFIELD

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Helping Hands for Hurricane Laura Victims

Dearest Parishioners and Friends:

Our area knows first-hand the devastation that can be caused by flooding. Four years ago, donations and contributions came to St. Margaret Church here in Albany by the thousands to assist parishioners in our parish and in greater Baton Rouge affected by flooding. Many of these contributions came from people who live in Lake Charles and other areas affected by Hurricane Laura.

Looking at the images in the media showed us Laura's tremendous impact on our friends and neighbors in the western parts of Louisiana. I spoke with a dear priest friend of mine who is the Vicar General of Lake Charles, and he and I both know that parishioners of their parishes and the parishes themselves in the Diocese of Lake Charles (and even Alexandria and Shreveport) need our assistance, especially with the impacts of COVID-19.

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW not only to return the favor to friends, neighbors and relatives in the Diocese of Lake Charles and elsewhere in Louisiana who have, so often, been so generous to us! We will be sending gift cards of all denominations to sister Churches in western and northern Louisiana to assist their parishioners who have suffered so much from the devastation that has been caused by Laura. **Several parishes in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, local groups, and national organizations will all be teaming up with St. Margaret to make this a reality!**

Consider going by national chains such as Wal-Mart, Target, Shell or Exxon stations, Lowe's and Home Depot and purchasing a gift card in any amount, preferably in denominations of \$50 to \$100 per card. Imagine the help we could give if each family in each of our parishes were able to contribute something!

Place them in an envelope marked "Helping Hands" and return it to the parish office, the office drop-box, or place it in the collection this weekend. Or, if you are from another parish, mail it to us (**St. Margaret, PO Box 100, Albany, Louisiana 70711**). Let us know who you are and where you are from! You can also give a cash donation that we will forward to our neighbors. This is a perfect way to help as all contributions will be forwarded directly to Hurricane victims without any overhead costs associated. You can always give online (stmargaretstthomas.com/give; put **HH** along with your last name in the first "Last Name" Box) or via Paypal (paypal.me/stmargaretalbany).

St. Margaret will, in the coming weeks, make an announcement here about a second collection to help our brothers and sisters in Christ!

While it is impossible for us to be there physical to help right now, we can surely help and return the favor for so many who have been generous to us! Please consider helping! Stay safe friends, and Southwest Louisiana, we love you!

Fr. Jamin & Company

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