



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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Dear Brothers in Christ,

Everyone has heard the news of the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25. The earthquake toppled buildings, homes causing widespread panic and claiming more than 5,000 lives. The toll on human life is still becoming clear as rescue workers access the area searching for human life under all the rubble of cement and debris.

Catholic Relief Services in partnership with Caritas Nepal has begun to embark on a major emergency response to this disaster in providing emergency shelter materials, blankets, water treatment, sanitation, hygiene kits and medical assistance. At this moment, CRS and Caritas are identifying the most pressing needs in the hardest hit districts of Kathmandu and Pokhara.

Aware of the human suffering and desperate needs, **I am asking you, I am urging you, to take up a second collection the weekend of May 9-10 for our brothers and sisters in Nepal.** The funds will be used to support the efforts of CRS to respond to the immediate needs as outlined above.

The readings for Sixth Sunday of Easter lend themselves to preaching about our care and concern for others as Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you." Finally, please include a special intention for the people of Nepal at all Masses.

If you need clarification, please contact the mission office. Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this relief effort.

Fraternally in Christ,

+ Mark L. Bartchak

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown