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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord. Once again, our community has experienced the power and the fury of another major hurricane. Hurricane Sally claimed at least three lives and caused significant damage to properties.

In the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, many of our structures (church buildings, schools, parish halls, rectories, etc.) have been damaged. Of course, there are trees and limbs down everywhere, and some of these have cut into people's property and homes. As well, the rain and rising water brought extensive flooding.

Thanks be to God, we have a very strong and generous community, as well as insurance. Immediately after the storm (and in some cases, during the storm), neighbors jumped in to help one another. Our diocese and Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida have already assisted thousands of people with food, emergency supplies, and basic necessities. Thank you for any help that you have given or will give in the future for recovery and for rebuilding.

We are all going through so much these days: a pandemic, natural disasters, a very divisive election campaign, etc. These things have a way of beating us down and tempting us to lose faith. But we must always remember: God is with us! Jesus told us that there would be plenty of crosses to carry in this life. We are not alone; however, he is with us at every step of the way on our journey through this "valley of tears." We know how all of this ends: in glory.

Please know that you are in my prayers. We have faced hardship together in the past, and we will undoubtedly go through this again in the future. This is God's Church, and he will make it possible for us to continue to practice our faith, serve one another, and serve him.

God bless you.

Your Brother in Christ,

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee