



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we witness the death and destruction caused by the typhoon that struck the Philippines earlier this week, we come together as members of God's human family and as compassionate people of faith to offer our prayers and support to ease the suffering of those most deeply impacted by this tragedy.

I have asked every parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to hold a special collection at Masses this coming weekend, November 16-17, on behalf of our sisters and brothers in the Philippines. Every cent raised will be directed to Catholic Relief Services, which is on the ground in the affected areas bringing humanitarian aid and emergency supplies to survivors.

The money given to CRS will help to fund and distribute such things as water kits, emergency shelter kits, hygiene kits, and household living supplies. It is believed that 500,000 shelters are likely uninhabitable and un-repairable, making donations for such supplies extremely critical.

Those unable to attend Mass this weekend or would prefer to donate directly to CRS, may do so at www.crs.org.

I also write today to ask you to join me in praying to the God of Mercies on behalf of those directly impacted by the typhoon and for their loved ones, many of whom have been unable to communicate with their relatives and some of whom are among our sisters and brothers in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. A special Mass for members of the Archdiocesan Filipino community will take place on Sunday, November 17 at 2:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Severna Park. All are welcome.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for your prayers, as we stand in faithful solidarity with the people of God of the Philippines at this time of great pain and loss. May their suffering be assuaged and their hope restored by God's never-ending love and by the goodness of our family of faith.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William E. Lori".

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore