



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL  
1011 FIRST AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10022

January 10, 2020  
Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

My Brother Priest,

I just got off the phone with Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez, the Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico (many of you will remember him from his years as priest here in this archdiocese), who updated me on the effects of the earthquake that hit Puerto Rico earlier this week.

As they are still trying to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria back in September 2017, the earthquake and aftershocks have hit hard, particularly in the southern part of the island. I assured the archbishop of our prayers and closeness to him; although we try to respond with solicitude for people suffering anywhere in the world, the Archdiocese of New York feels a special closeness to the people of Puerto Rico, who have such strong ties to New York.

You know of my reluctance to ever ask for another "second collection" but given the unique relationship we share with Puerto Rico, I believe our people will respond generously if asked to show their support, as they have always done. I leave the determination of the best way to express that support up to you; if you feel that a second collection would work best, that is fine. If you feel some other method would work best in your parish, that is fine as well.

According to Archbishop Gonzalez, *Caritas Puerto Rico* is the lead relief agency in Puerto Rico responding to the earthquake, so any funds we raise will be forwarded to them. You should know that, as you would expect, Monsignor Kevin Sullivan has already arranged for a \$30,000 donation from Catholic Charities, plus a \$50,000 donation from the Archdiocese of New York, to be sent to assist in the relief effort, but the Archbishop has told me that the need is great.

Please send your parish's check to the finance office, room 1940. We would like to receive it by February 5.

Thank you for your generous support. With prayerful best wishes for you and your parishioners for a blessed 2020, I am,

Fraternally in Christ,

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York

TMD:mb