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Order Responds to Katrina With Largest Disaster Effort Ever

9/2/2005

The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has announced the largest disaster relief effort in its history. The Order has pledged a minimum of \$2.5 million in financial assistance and will match any funds beyond that donated to the Knights of Columbus Katrina Relief Fund over the next 60 days.

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Of that money, \$250,000 will be immediately distributed to Catholic Charities in affected areas, and \$1.25 million will be used in the immediate future to assist those displaced and made indefinitely homeless. An additional \$1 million will be set aside and used to rebuild the estimated 130 Catholic schools destroyed or seriously damaged by the storm and its aftermath.

"We are asking all of our councils and assemblies in the United States and Canada to become active in this relief effort within 60 days either through cash donations or volunteer efforts," said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. "We are also asking our members to support the collection appeal of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, and are looking into the possibility of establishing a job bank for those displaced."

Many Knights of Columbus in local councils near the affected areas are volunteering their homes, council halls, and personal time and supplies to those affected. These efforts, local and national, will expand in the days ahead. Members of the Order in the United States and Canada, and the general public are asked to donate to this effort.

Donors in the United States should make checks payable to **Knights of Columbus Charities USA, Inc.** and donors in Canada should make checks payable to **Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc.** Both your check and envelope should be clearly marked: **Attention: Hurricane KATRINA Relief.**

Donations should be sent to:

U.S. Donors

Knights of Columbus
Charities USA, Inc.
Gift Processing Center

Canadian Donors

Knights of Columbus
Canada Charities Inc.
Gift Processing Center

PO Box 9028
Pittsfield, MA 01202-9028
Attention: Hurricane KATRINA Relief

PO Box 7252 Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 1X9
Attention: Hurricane KATRINA Relief

One hundred percent of contributions will go directly to hurricane relief, and all donations to [Knights of Columbus Charities](#) are tax-deductible (tax creditable in Canada).

The Knights have nearly 50,000 members in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. Of those about one-third have life insurance through the Order.

The Knights of Columbus has also announced that it will be suspending lapses of policies and premium notices in FEMA-designated disaster areas for at least 60 days. Knights of Columbus is ranked by Fortune Magazine as one of the largest providers of life insurance in the country with over \$54 billion of top rated life insurance in force.

Supreme Officers discuss relief efforts on a conference call with state deputies from affected areas and throughout North America.



The Supreme Council on Aug. 31 provided initial relief funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Initial contributions of \$10,000 each were made available to Knights of Columbus state councils in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

The Knights of Columbus has provided significant relief for other recent disasters, providing more than \$500,000 to victims of the Asian tsunami and \$1 million for families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

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