



January 14, 2025

Dear brother priests, consecrated men and women and lay faithful of the Diocese of Monterey:

A week ago, last Tuesday, we began to witness the savage destruction of fires across the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. Since then, we have seen and heard of countless images and stories of people doing everything they could to save or flee from their homes due to the horrific fires that confronted them. The fires, as we know, showed no mercy to personal homes, businesses, churches, people, and animals who lived in these areas. The destruction as we have seen is incomprehensible.

Thousands of people are literally homeless due to the fires throughout southern California. Many people have been asking *“What can we do?”* Prayers for sure are being offered up by many people, regardless of whether we know someone directly or indirectly impacted by the fires.

We lift up in prayer our firefighters, first responders, and emergency personnel who are trying to protect and save our brothers and sisters and their property. *For those who have lost their lives in the fires, we ask God to draw them to himself and console their family and friends.*

If someone is seeking to be more direct in assisting the victims of the fires, I invite you to visit the **Archdiocese of Los Angeles** website at www.lacatholics.org. Here you will find some links where you can directly assist. Also, the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** is directing people to **Catholic Charities USA** as a direct means to assist people who are in need due to this ongoing disaster. You can go to www.catholiccharitiesusa.org to financially support the disaster relief efforts towards the L.A. Wildfires.

Here in our Diocese, I am asking each parish to have a *‘second’ collection* for financial relief to the *L.A. Wildfire Disaster*. These monies will be sent to the **Archdiocese of L.A.** for their use to support the people that have been impacted by the fires. If you are writing a check, please make it out to [your parish], but place in the memo line that it is for the L.A. Wildfire Relief.

As the fires began to spread in Los Angeles last week, I was on retreat with the other bishops of our L.A. Province at the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer. We were praying for all who were being affected by the fires. We, too, were receiving constant emails, phone calls, and text messages from priests, deacons, and lay faithful who were experiencing this unexpected horror. My heart goes out to all who have suffered any tragedy or loss due to the fires. Let us keep each other in prayer in the days going forward.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey in California

