

A message from the Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have called this morning and spoken with all but two of our clergy in the southwestern portion of the diocese. Reports on Hurricane Ike are varied, but not good. The Lake Charles/Sulphur area has been impacted significantly with a water surge that is "unbelievable." Reports from the clergy are that it is "10 times worse" than Hurricane Rita. The winds, while damaging, have not been the problem, but rather a relentless surge that continues to batter and flood the area, and at 11:00 a.m. was continuing to rise.

For the most part, the clergy and parishioners have done relatively well and experienced some tree and property (building) damage. With the exception of Moss Bluff and Sulphur, I have been able to get reports on all of the church properties and have been advised that things look quite good. We must remember however, folks haven't been able to get into all of them to thoroughly check things out.

I regret reporting there are a number of people, clergy and parishioners that have had their homes flooded, and some as deep as four feet of water. Sadly, Father Jack Myers and his family have once again had their home flooded throughout. As some will recall, the Myers home was flooded during Hurricane Rita and sustained major damage. Deacon Boo Kay's home has also been flooded throughout.

Everyone is being taken care of and report there is nothing that we can do at this time ... other than pray.

I urge your continued prayers for all that are found to be in harms way; your prayers for the waters to recede; and your prayers for our neighbours in the Diocese of Texas that have really suffered at the hands of this storm. I called and talked with Bishop Wimberly of Texas a few minutes ago and assured him of our prayers for all of them.

Know of my prayers for all of you, and should you need to contact me, my cell phone is probably the best method - 318.730.2198.

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Bruce". The plus sign is positioned to the left of the name, and the signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson
III Bishop of Western Louisiana