



March 18, 2011

Dear Brother Priests and Pastoral Coordinators,

As you know, our sisters and brothers in Japan have suffered terribly in recent days because of the earthquake and tsunami. The Catholics of Western Washington join the international community in expressing our heartfelt compassion for all affected, and through the important work of Catholic Relief Services, we plan to offer our financial assistance.

The annual collection for Catholic Relief Services is the weekend of April 2-3. As usual, we ask you to encourage your people to support this effort, which provides badly needed assistance for catastrophic events as well as ongoing challenges of poverty and disease around the world. **In lieu of a special or second collection for aid to Japan, 30 percent of the regular collection received in the Archdiocese this year will be designated for Japan relief.**

All proceeds will be forwarded to CRS. Once you have taken the collection, please forward it to the archdiocesan Missions Office in the usual manner. Parishioners are also welcome to give directly to Catholic Relief Services' Japan Relief by donating online at [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) or sending a check to the Missions Office, payable to Catholic Relief Services and noting "Japan Relief" in the memo section.

We have released to the media a statement of solidarity and prayer for the Japanese people and placed it on our website. All who suffer are close to the Lord and to us all.

Sincerely in Christ,

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Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain  
Archbishop of Seattle