

For Immediate Release

March 18, 2011

Statement by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain On the disaster in northern Japan

(Seattle) The Catholic faith community in Western Washington joins with the entire international community to express our heartfelt compassion for our neighbors across the Pacific in Japan. In the aftermath of disasters such as the earthquake and tsunami that have devastated the northern part of Japan, we are reminded of our deep connection to all peoples. This relationship is especially important when our sisters and brothers confront pain and suffering and when they endure tragic loss of life. We therefore offer our heartfelt prayers to the people of Japan and commit ourselves to their material assistance both during this time of emergency and in their long-term recovery efforts. In solidarity with the people of Japan, the Archdiocese of Seattle and the church throughout the United States are mobilizing emergency support through Catholic Relief Services and its global partner, Caritas International. I urge Catholic people, those of other faiths and all people of good will to support the many agencies organizing relief activities for our sisters and brothers in Japan in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

How to donate

Catholic Relief Services is the official international agency of the U.S. Catholic Church providing assistance for catastrophic events as well as ongoing challenges of poverty and disease around the world. All may give directly to Catholic Relief Services' Japan Relief by donating online at www.crs.org or sending a check to the Archdiocese of Seattle Missions Office, 710 Ninth Ave., Seattle 98104. Make checks payable to Catholic Relief Services and note "Japan Relief" on the memo line.

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