

For Immediate Release

Nov. 11, 2013

Archdiocese heeds Pope Francis' call for Philippine aid

Pope Francis led prayers Sunday for people hit by a deadly typhoon in the Philippines and surrounding region, and asked that concrete aid be sent soon.

The Archdiocese of Seattle posted on its website, www.seattlearchdiocese.org, ways people may donate to emergency relief efforts spearheaded by Catholic Relief Services.

During the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Nov. 10, the pope expressed his concern and prayers for the estimated tens of thousands of people dead and others affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated parts of the central Philippines Nov. 8.

"I wish to express my closeness to the people of the Philippines and that region that has been hit by a terrible typhoon," he said.

He asked the tens of thousands of people gathered in the square to join him in a moment of silent prayer "for these brothers and sisters and let's try also to make our concrete help reach them."

In response to the tragedy, Pope Francis made an initial donation of \$150,000 for the relief efforts. The money, sent through the local churches hardest hit by the storm, was earmarked to support "assistance for the displaced and those impacted by the flooding," the Vatican said in a written statement.

Representatives from Catholic Relief Service reached the Philippines by boat Nov. 10 to assess the most urgent needs. CRS said the most urgent priorities were emergency shelter, water and sanitation, household items like blankets, kitchen and cookware, potable water and toilets.

To donate to Catholic Relief Services, send donations to:

The Archdiocese of Seattle Missions Office

710 9th Ave

Seattle, WA 98104

or call 877-435-7277; or online at www.crs.org

Make checks payable to CRS (note "Haiyan typhoon")

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas International. The Archdiocese of Seattle Missions Office is the local representative for CRS.

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