



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC  
METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH

❖ OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP ❖

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30 August 2005

STATEMENT OF METROPOLITAN BASIL  
ON THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

“The news reports of the devastation left in the wake of hurricane Katrina direct our thoughts and prayers to all those who are suffering in our southern states.

We cannot even begin to comprehend the monumental loss and damage to homes and properties. Nor can we fully realize the pain, anguish and fear of those people who have been displaced and are now without electricity, water, or the familiar comforts of their homes.

Along with friends and relatives who may live in the area, we Byzantine Catholics of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh have the personal connection of our mission parish of St. Nicholas in New Orleans, Louisiana. Founded in 1976, its only pastor has been Father Ellis De Priest, S.M. Several years ago, they were able to move into their own church building.

With most sincere prayers, let us remember them as well as all people whose lives have been so greatly interrupted by the winds, flooding, and subsequent danger that this storm has ravaged upon them. They who are there have undoubtedly been changed forever. May our pleas to God on their behalf help them through this unfathomable distress and through all the days ahead.”

Donations for St. Nicholas Mission parish and parishioners may be sent to the Chancery, 66 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Checks should be made to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh with the notation “Hurricane Katrina.”