



BISHOP EDWARD B. SCHARFENBERGER

OFFICE of the BISHOP

December 21, 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this season of peace and hope, let us remember all those in the midwestern regions of our country that were hit by devastating tornadoes in recent weeks. We pray for all those who were killed, injured and or left without a roof over their heads, without jobs, or without any of the creature comforts we take for granted, especially at a time of year when families long to celebrate and pray together. Homes, churches, and entire towns were destroyed, the impact of which will be long-lasting. That is why I am asking for your help.

Catholic Charities USA has set up a fund to provide immediate and ongoing relief in regions now trying to recover from the tornadoes, even as more severe weather threatens. To respond as a unified Diocese, I have asked our parishes to take up a voluntary special collection to support our brothers and sisters affected by this recent natural disaster. Your parish will make an announcement of the date and method of taking up this collection, so please watch your parish bulletin for details. Your donation will provide support services and resources to families and individuals affected by the recent storms.

I realize that things are not easy for anyone as we continue to deal with the ongoing personal and societal woes caused by COVID-19, but I also have witnessed the incredible generosity of the people of our Diocese whenever there has been a need locally, nationally or around the world. I am grateful for your continued kindness toward those who are suffering.

As we await the birth of our Savior, know that I am holding you in prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Edward B. Scharfenberger

Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY
40 NORTH MAIN AVENUE
ALBANY, NY 12203
SHEPHERD@RCDA.ORG
(518) 453-6611