

Monthly Bulletin

Parish Disaster Ministries

Our New Year's Resolution

Catholic Charities WV Disaster Services is a state-wide program. We are committed to long-term disaster recovery. We connect resources to needs, and having points of contact in communities around the state enables us to better serve our neighbors.

Thank you for your willingness to be one of those points of contact!

One of our long-term goals is to create a database of the different ways that Catholics are prepared to respond to disasters. In order to meet that goal, we're asking all Parish Disaster Ministries (PDMs) to help us by letting us know what's happening in your parish. How can we support you?

Your Action Plan

In the handbook we have created for Parish Disaster Ministries, there is a form for your use that allows you to record your parish's action plan in the event of a disaster. While it is not necessary for us to have that form, we do appreciate any information from it that you can share. Our basic questions are:

1. Which ministries will your parish will engage in after a disaster?
2. What will be the coverage area for each of these ministries (town/city, county, state)?

We also want to make sure that we have the correct contact person for your PDM.

Is your PDM still formulating the Action Plan? No problem! We are available to help you identify the needs in your community, as well as develop relationships that will help your Action Plan run more smoothly once the chaos of a disaster is in play.

"Blue Sky" Ministries

I first heard the phrase "blue sky time" towards the beginning of my involvement in this project, in a

conversation with Lora. I think it's so clever! When the skies are "blue", we're not responding to a disaster, and there are no immediate threats for which we need to prepare.

What types of outreach does your parish participate in on a regular basis? These outreaches are often vital in a community's long-term recovery as survivors get back on their feet. While these ministries are probably not directly related to your Parish's Disaster Ministry, they do contribute to the overall picture of your community's ability to respond to a disaster.

Following Up

We know that the paperwork part of life s received differently by different people. Maybe you love it; maybe you hate it! No matter where you fall on the spectrum, we intend to make this part of the process as painless as possible for you. There are three ways for you to stay connected:

- **Call Lora or Kate!** We're easy to talk to, and we can have a great conversation about what's going on with your PDM.
- **Fill out our online survey!** The survey is designed to engage a broad audience of Catholic parishes in WV, and it gets to the nuggets of this particular conversation as well. Find it here: <https://CatholicCharitiesWV.org/disaster-recovery-services/>
- **Send us your forms!** Some people really like forms, as they are handy for keeping things organized. You received the forms referenced here as part of the PDM Handbook.

If we don't hear from you via the previous three methods, we'll be making a point to reach out to YOU in the coming weeks. After all, this is our day job, and we know you're busy doing a bunch of other things for your community.

Questions? Contact Us!

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