

BULLETIN UPDATE FOR DISASTER COMMITTEES



PREPAREDNESS FOR PARISHIONERS MAY 2018

Pope Francis wrote about the importance of disaster risk reduction. He called us to, “...reinforce the work of prevention, education and training, in order to reduce the human, material and economic losses caused by natural disasters.”

Here is one way your committee can answer this call. Encourage members of your parish community to plan ahead.

CREATING A *FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN*

“What if something happens and I’m not with my family?” “Will I be able to reach them?” “How will I know they are safe?” “How can I let them know I’m OK?” During a disaster, you will need to send and receive information from your family.

Communication networks, such as mobile phones and computers, could be unreliable during disasters, and electricity could be disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household—including children and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, as well as outside caregivers—know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. Planning starts with three easy steps:



1. COLLECT.

Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, or service providers.



2. SHARE.

Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your Family Emergency Communication Plan online at [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan), you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.



3. PRACTICE.

Have regular household meetings to review and practice your plan.

More information, including tips and printables, are available at [ready.gov/prepare](https://www.ready.gov/prepare)

We’re Always Here to Answer Questions and Hear Concerns!

Kate Kosydar - Parish Social Ministry - 304-622-4532 // kkosydar@ccwva.org

Lora Pierce - Disaster Services - 304-756-0062 // lpierce@ccwva.org