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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stand with the People of Venezuela

Jacksonville, Fla. (June 30, 2026) – In times of tragedy, the Church responds with prayer, compassion and concrete acts of charity. Catholics are joining members of the community throughout the Diocese of St. Augustine to pray for those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela and support the Church's emergency relief efforts through Catholic Relief Services.

"The people of Venezuela are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Many Venezuelan families are part of the Diocese of St. Augustine, and this tragedy touches members of our own faith community. I invite all of the faithful to pray for those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods and, if you are able, to support the relief efforts of Catholic Relief Services. Together, through prayer and generosity, we can bring hope to those who need it most," said Bishop Erik Pohlmeier of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Pope Leo XIV has also expressed his spiritual closeness to the people of Venezuela, assuring them of his prayers during the Angelus on June 28 and calling on the international community to stand in solidarity with those affected by the disaster. The Holy Father has also sent an initial emergency contribution to support relief efforts through the Church.

Two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela on June 24, leaving widespread devastation and thousands of families in urgent need of assistance. Rescue crews from around the world continue searching for survivors while communities begin the difficult work of recovery.

Many families have lost loved ones, homes and access to essential services. Working through Caritas Venezuela and local Church partners, Catholic Relief Services is providing emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, medical care and other critical assistance to those affected by the disaster.

The Diocese of St. Augustine encourages the community to support these relief efforts through the Catholic Relief Services Venezuela Earthquake Relief Fund. Visit <https://www.crs.org/donate/venezuela-earthquake?ms=agicrs0226veq00her00> to help and make a secure online donation.

Please continue to keep the people of Venezuela, rescue workers and all those mourning the loss of loved ones in your prayers.

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