



DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH
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Office of The Diocesan Bishop



May 18, 2026

Dear Pastors and Administrators,

In recent months, the humanitarian crisis in Cuba has reached devastating levels, leaving countless families without reliable access to food, medicine, electricity, and other basic necessities. People in Cuba are literally starving. Priests are not even able to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments in many communities due to a total lack of fuel, which makes transportation almost impossible. As our brothers and sisters suffer just 90 miles from our shores, the Church cannot remain indifferent.

I urgently invite the faithful of the Diocese of Palm Beach to respond with compassion, solidarity, and sacrificial generosity through a **special emergency second collection** to support humanitarian aid efforts in Cuba during this critical time. This second collection **can be scheduled on either May 23-24 or May 30-31**. Make all checks payable to the “Diocese of Palm Beach” indicating on the subject section: “Emergency 2nd Collection for Cuba”. Mail all checks to the Pastoral Center no later than Monday, June 1, 2026.

The emergency second collection will be considered part of our “Helping Hands for Cuba” campaign (in Spanish: Campaña “Dale una mano a Cuba”). Through our “Helping Hands for Cuba” campaign, the Diocese of Palm Beach will directly support the Diocese of Bayamo-Manzanillo and the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba, assisting their urgent humanitarian and pastoral efforts.

I have asked Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach to coordinate our “Helping Hands for Cuba” campaign, which will also include collections of critically needed items for the people of Cuba (e.g. cans of food and basic medicines). Additional information regarding these efforts will be shared with parishes and the faithful in the coming weeks.

I ask that each of you motivate your parishioners in order for them to support this mission of mercy and solidarity. Together, through our prayers, generosity, and faith, we can extend helping hands to our brothers and sisters in Cuba and bring the light of Christ to those experiencing darkness and despair.

Assuring you of my remembrance in the celebration of the Eucharist and invoking upon you and your people the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Manuel de Rodríguez, J.C.D.
Bishop of Palm Beach

