



DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH
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Office of The Diocesan Bishop



August 11, 2026

TO ALL PASTORS, PARISH ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL PRESIDENTS AND PRINCIPALS

Dear Pastors, Administrators, School Presidents and Principals,

Grace and peace in the Lord.

In response to the loss of life and widespread destruction caused by the devastating earthquake that struck Colombia on August 10, particularly affecting the Valle del Cauca region and other important areas such as Pereira and Chocó, I invite our diocesan family to unite in prayer and solidarity with the people of Colombia.

As Scripture reminds us, "If one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Cor 12:26). May our prayers and generosity express our communion with our brothers and sisters in Colombia. I will celebrate a Special Mass in Solidarity with Colombia on Saturday, August 15, at 11:30 a.m., at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Boca Raton. All priests, deacons, religious, and faithful are warmly invited to attend, especially the Colombian community of our Diocese.

I am also authorizing a voluntary special second collection in all parishes and missions, to be taken up as soon as possible, to support relief efforts for those affected by the earthquake. I likewise invite our Catholic school presidents and principals to consider ways to support our diocesan solidarity efforts with Colombia, particularly through prayer, awareness, and charitable assistance. **All donations should made payable to the parish or school, deposited by that entity, then one check should be sent to the finance department at the Pastoral Cetner, with "Colombia support" in the memo line.**

Please ensure that beginning immediately, these two initiatives are widely promoted through parish announcements, bulletins, websites, social media, and every other available means of communication. I also ask that a special petition for the people of Colombia be included in the Prayer of the Faithful at all Masses this weekend,

Please keep the victims, their families, and all the people of Colombia in your prayers. May Our Lady of Chiquinquirá intercede for them and bring consolation and hope in this difficult hour.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous response.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

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

