

August 23, 2016

To God's beloved in Acadiana:

Grace to you and peace in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

The floods of the past week have devastated many, and especially those of you in the Acadiana Convocation. As busy as they are tending to your spiritual and temporal needs, your clergy have taken time to share your stories with me. My heart has ached for you and you have been constantly on my mind.

Know that you are not alone. You are of course in my daily prayers. But people from across the Episcopal Church have also reached out to you in prayer and with generous donations to aid you in your time of need.

Episcopal Relief and Development quickly issued a grant for flood relief here and in our sister Diocese. Prayers and contributions have been offered from Connecticut, Minnesota, Alabama, Maryland, and Fond du Lac, to name a few.

Our Disaster Relief Coordinator, Deacon Lois Maberry, is hard at work connecting needs to available resources. Step one has been financial assistance. The next step will be hands-on help. She will stay in close touch with your clergy to identify your needs and to help us all respond to them.

As stricken as I have been upon hearing of your trials, I have also been inspired by the love and grace that you have been sharing with one another amid difficult times. You are showing all of us what it means to be followers of the risen Christ.

May God's grace sustain and restore you all.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, PhD, DD  
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana