

THE BISHOP OF THE BAHAMAS AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

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MEMO

Date: 12th September, 2017

To: The Clergy

From: The Bishop

Subject: Hurricane Irma 9/17 – Report #1

My sisters and brothers,

We join together in thanking God for sparing the Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands from worse injury and damage at the hand of Hurricane Irma. I pray that your families are safe and well, or as well as they can be.

Archbishop John Holder called today to inquire about the hurricane and to extend his best wishes and assurance of prayers to us. Also over the past few days Bishop Philip Wright from Belize, Bishop Leopold Friday from the Windward Islands, Bishop Charles Davidson of Guyana, retired Bishop Clive Abdulah of Trinidad and Tobago and Bishop Peter Eaton of the Diocese of Southeast Florida have all expressed their concern.

After we look at what our experience has been, we consider our sisters and brothers in Barbuda, Anguilla, St. Maarten, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the USA. We pray for them, as they for us.

The following is a preliminary report on diocesan damage. Please note that we have not been able to contact all locations, and have not been able to visit any severely damaged areas due to airports not being reopened.

Thankfully there is no injury or death of which we know.

HURRICANE REPORT

Turks and Caicos Islands

1. Grand Turk

Reports indicate widespread, major damage and flooding. Major roof structural and other damage to buildings.

Due to the destruction of infrastructure there is no phone service, and therefore we have not been able to speak to Canon Mark Kendall, Canon Lamuel Been or Catechist and Mrs. Holten Dickenson of Salt Cay who went to stay with their son in Grand Turk.

2. Providenciales

We have spoken to Fr. Tellison Glover.

Major damage and flooding. Roof and structural damage to many buildings. Many homes completely lost. 500 utility poles are down.

St. Monica's Church – sheet metal blown off and plywood exposed. Water beat in. Sheet rock ceilings damaged.

St. Monica's Rectory – roof over bedrooms blew off and ceilings fell in. Building uninhabitable. Severe water damage to interior and to Fr. Glover's personal possessions.

3. Salt Cay & South Caicos

We have no information on Church buildings in Salt Cay and South Caicos. A state of emergency has been declared for South Caicos.

So far we have made no contact with Catechist and Mrs. Alden Durham of South Caicos.

Bahamas

4. Ragged Island

The island was completely devastated. It is uninhabitable. Many buildings are destroyed or have roofs off or have structural damage.

Holy Innocents Church is still standing strong. Although the shingles have been peeled off, the ice and water shield has protected the roof. One hurricane proof window blew out, allowing water inside.

5. Inagua

Widespread damage to roofs and structures of homes and public buildings.

St. Philip's Church, Parish Hall, Community Centre and Rectory lost some shingles.

6. Acklins – Salina Point – complete devastation

Spring Point – St. Clement’s Church in good order. The church’s water tank was damaged.

7 Bimini

Widespread damage. Some roofs off. Major flooding of streets. About 20 utility poles down. Many downed trees. Tornados touched down.

Our Lady and St. Stephen’s Church Rectory and Church appear to be in good order, except for some guttering and flashing torn off.

8. Grand Bahama Up to this time, there is no known damage to any Church property other than minor shingles loss.

Tornados did touch down in some places causing roof damage or loss. There are some downed utility poles.

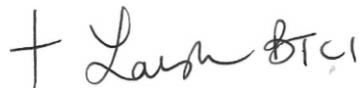
LET US PRAY

I call on all parishes to continue prayers for affected countries, areas and persons. Encourage your parishioners to be steadfast in this.

APPEAL

I call on all parishes to launch a hurricane appeal immediately. By way of second collections and other means of your choosing, please gather funds to be used to assist in affected areas of our Diocese.

Yours in Christ,



The Rt. Rev’d. Laish Boyd
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LZB/lf