



Diocese of Monterey

Office of the Bishop

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August 12, 2025

Dear brother priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women:

All of us have seen the terrible images and reports of the profound suffering in Gaza. It is difficult to watch and hear of people who are starving, as well as being killed as they gather to receive food in varied distribution areas. Undoubtedly the political situation is complex and overwhelming, but what cannot be overlooked is the humanitarian issue at hand.

We must continue to keep our sisters and brothers in our prayers, but I am asking you to consider below a request from *Archbishop Timothy Broglio, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*:

*Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that "Gaza is starving." The **Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)** is there providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for the sick, malnourished and wounded. **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** is working through local Church partners to provide food, shelter, cash assistance, hygiene supplies, and care for people's emotional well-being. **Given the extraordinary nature of this crisis, I ask you to consider taking up a special collection to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in Gaza and surrounding areas in the Middle East and send donated funds to CNEWA and CRS.** Both organizations have well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region which allow them to respond quickly and efficiently. The situation in Gaza and across the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States.*

Upon receiving the collection, please send a check into the Diocese of Monterey, marked "**Gaza Crisis**" and we will distribute it to the two organizations listed above. I **Thank You** for giving this situation your serious attention.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey

