

From the Bishop of East Carolina

January 2010

Dear Friends in Christ throughout the Diocese of East Carolina,

By now, most of us have heard of the devastating effects of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, a country already suffering the devastation of hunger, disease, instability and poverty. Our hearts go out to those who are suffering and to the families and friends of those who have died. Now, even as the full extent of the disaster's toll has been determined, we must turn to making our earliest responses toward a recovery which will be years in the making.

Given the magnitude of this natural disaster, I am calling on the congregations of our Diocese to take up a special relief offering for Haiti during the season of Lent and to send the offering to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). I hope that such an effort, spread out through the entire season, will also include educational and informational opportunities not only about the hardships facing that small nation, but also about the work and ministry of The Episcopal Church in the face of the needs of the people of Haiti.

With our Diocesan Convention gathering in early February in New Bern, I will also ask for a special offering to be taken up there for Haiti relief.

Our offering toward the relief of the suffering of the people of Haiti includes not only our money, but our prayers and intercessions as well. In this season of Epiphany in which we celebrate the showing forth of Jesus to the world, let us manifest Jesus through both our prayers and in our giving.

Faithfully,

Clifton Daniel
Bishop of East Carolina