



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Dear People of God in Northwest Minnesota and Others of Goodwill,

I write with an urgent request for prayers because of the dramatic flooding that is affecting Northwestern Minnesota. I am inviting all the priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Crookston to join together in prayer to Almighty God for protection.

All are invited to join in prayer, especially in praying the Rosary, for the protection of human life, for our lands and our cities, especially the city of Crookston. Priests are encouraged to offer this as a second intention at their Masses this week.

We know that God works all things for good in every difficult situation (Rom 8:28), and we trust in his Divine Providence, even in the midst of hardships like these events. We are humbled, impressed and honored by the way the people of Northwest Minnesota have joined together as one community during this trial to show love and care for each other. I thank Governor Walz for sending the National Guard. It is beautiful to witness people making themselves available to help their neighbors get through these difficult days. We are grateful for the generosity we have seen and continue to see. These actions are one sign of the good God is bringing out from the evil we are experiencing. As people of faith, we know that when we turn to the Lord and seek to support each other, we become stronger no matter the tribulations we encounter.

I pray God's blessing upon all the people of Northwest Minnesota who are experiencing this trial and I ask God to protect human life and our livelihoods. I ask that we continue to pray for one another and thank those people of goodwill who are praying for us.

God bless you.

In Christ,

The Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of Crookston