



Office of the President

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville
President

April 27, 2015

Most Reverend Paul Simick
Vicar Apostolic
Vicariate Apostolic of Nepal
Assumption Church
G.P.O. Box 8975, EPC 343
Kathmandu, Nepal

Via Fax: 011-978-5521-710

Your Excellency:

May the Lord strengthen you and the Church in Nepal in this Easter season!

It is with heavy hearts that we in the United States have viewed the tragedy in Nepal this weekend in the aftermath of strong earthquakes that have claimed thousands of lives and displaced tens of thousands of families. The media has conveyed stark images: people half-buried in rubble; others injured and wandering in a daze looking for loved ones; at night, survivors huddling in the street to sleep, fearful that their homes might fall; buildings flattened. No doubt the death toll will rise as rescue workers comb through the debris.

In this time of sorrow and anguish, let me assure you that your brother bishops and our local Church in the United States stand in solidarity with you. We understand that Catholic Relief Services, the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is already on the ground to provide relief and assistance in coordination with Caritas Nepal.

Our heartfelt prayers are with you, your clergy, your Church and all the people of Nepal. May the Lord give you the strength and fortitude to face the difficult tasks ahead of rebuilding lives and communities.

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops