



DIOCESE of KAMLOOPS

My brother priests in Christ,

July 14, 2017

The Government of British Columbia has declared a State of Emergency due to numerous wildfires that are burning out of control across our province. In our diocese, several communities are under evacuation order and some others are under evacuation alert, most notably Williams Lake and areas south of Quesnel.

As a precautionary measure, please ensure that all Church documents and records are safely secured. This includes recent backups of electronic data and records. Also ensure that the office is ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.

In the event of an evacuation order, please follow all directions given by your regional and/or local authority. Upon evacuating, it is suggested that any power and propane be turned off to any and all buildings on the premises. The Blessed Sacrament as well as sacramental and financial records are also to be evacuated and stored securely offsite. You are also required to report to an Emergency Social Service (ESS) Reception Centre once you are evacuated. Your local regional district and township will advise of the nearest centre. In addition, please also report to the Chancery office as well as your religious order.

Information on evacuation orders and wildfire statuses can be found at the following websites:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/home>

<https://www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca/>

The above links can be found on the diocesan site at [www.rcdk.org](http://www.rcdk.org). You may also refer to your local regional district website (i.e. TNRD, SLRD, Cariboo regional districts).

Much of our diocese has been greatly affected by these massive wildfires and highway closures. Please continue to pray for the safety of those who are actively fighting the fires and assisting in evacuations and relief efforts. Please also pray for peace and comfort to all of the evacuees and especially for those who have lost their homes and property. Thank you my brothers, for your prayers and for your efforts in supporting our parishioners in this time of adversity.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph P. Nguyen  
Bishop of Kamloops