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Parish Recovery Assistance Centers Help Irma Survivors

Naples FL- Today Disaster Services of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul-USA working with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Venice, Florida is launching a diocesan - wide parish based relief effort called Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (P-RACs). The P-RACs will be in Sebring, Bonita Springs, Marco Island, Naples and Fort Myers, FL.

P-RACs are a holistic community based approach to helping families immediately after a disaster hits” stated Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of Disaster Services, SVDP-USA. Catholic organizations are working together to deliver critical information and referral services and immediate relief to the survivors of Hurricane Irma.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul worked with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, TEEX to develop a “Just in Time” training program for the P-RACs. TEEX is a internationally recognized leader in the delivery of emergency response and workforce training. Ms. Disco-Shearer said that “we wanted to have a consistent model in the delivery of services to Irma survivors and TEEX assisted us with a formal training program and a logistics model for the Parish Recovery Assistance Centers.”

The P-RACs will be led by trained Rapid Response Teams that have come to Florida from around the United States. The Rapid Response Teams will train other parish based groups to provide information on FEMA, SBA, ONA, State and local disaster programs and provide hygiene kits, cleanup buckets, and other forms of help as required, and register households with Crisis Cleanup for muck outs and debris removal.

P-RACs do not replace other VOAD and FEMA Recovery operations, but rather compliment those services by being the initial face to face interaction of the survivors with their community in the road to recovery.

The P-RACs will consist of multiple parish communities working together to respond to Hurricane Irma. Irma survivors can call **1-888-507-2722** to get information. Addresses and Hours follow:

San Marco Church: 851 San Marco Road, Marco Island, FL 34145 **HRS:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mon. & Sat.; and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tue. thru Fri.

St. Agnes: 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34120 **HRS:** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon. Tue. Wed and Fri.; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thu.; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat.

St. Leo the Great: 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs, 34134 **HRS:** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mon. thru Fri.; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat.