



Office of the Bishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are all shocked and moved by the sudden destruction caused by the wildfires that continue to ravage the area around Fort McMurray, Alberta. The fires that were first reported on May 1 have grown to encompass more than 10,000 hectares, destroying more than 1,600 buildings and necessitating the evacuation of at least 90,000 people from the Fort McMurray area. Neighboring towns are also being threatened and evacuations continue. The situation is grave and still developing. At this time, it is so important that we lift up urgent prayers for our sisters and brothers in this entire area. Many of them are our loved ones, relatives, or acquaintances and we are very familiar with the intense loss that they experience. Let us pray that all people of goodwill across the country will reach out in a spirit of prayer, compassion and care to support those who are suffering. May the Lord protect and comfort them both now and in the difficult days ahead.

As a diocese, we are in the process of considering how best we might support those people in Alberta who have been impacted by this disaster. We will seek out the best ways to channel our support. In the mean time, I ask that every parish take up an emergency collection next weekend (May 14-15). By next weekend, we will be clear as to where our funds will be sent and I will inform you during the week. Please forward the proceeds directly to the Diocese of Antigonish so that we can forward our support to those concerned.

As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, let us continue to hold in prayer all who are affected by this tragedy.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Brian Joseph Dunn
Bishop of Antigonish