



Message to the Clergy and People of the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida

19 March 2024

Strengthening Support for Our Faith Community

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In our part of the world, we are used to being ready for emergency situations, especially during hurricane season. I am very grateful to those in our congregations and schools who have active emergency protocols in place, and who keep them up-to-date.

In this election year, our Office of Governmental Relations in Washington DC is advising us to be prepared for possible episodes of unrest and even violence around the country. There are likely to be marches, protests, and rallies that may become less peaceful than expected. The members of our congregations and school communities, as well as our properties, may be directly or indirectly affected.

To ensure that our congregations and schools are equipped with the resources and support to navigate these challenging times we have established a Crisis Response Team to enhance the existing support structures within our diocese. The primary objective of this team is to provide a comprehensive range of pastoral and practical responses to various crises.

The Crisis Response Task Force members are:

The Reverend Carol Barron, St. Mark's, Palm Beach Gardens

Keith Neely, St. Ann's, Hallandale

Lisa Davenport, St. Ann's, Hallandale

Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Ascension, Miami

Lynn Fitzpatrick, St. Andrew's, Palmetto Bay

Emily Wilken, Palmer Trinity Episcopal School, Miami

The Very Reverend Jason Roberson, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Miami

The Reverend Canon Eddie Lopez, Bishop's staff
The Venerable Hal Hurley, Bishop's staff
The Reverend Canon Licia Affer, Bishop's staff
Ms. Julia Grygorenko, Bishop's staff (Administrative support)

The Task Force is planning a series of conversations with congregational and school leadership to address some of the potential challenges we may face. Together with the Bishop's Staff they will also continue to update the [Resources](#) page on the website regularly, providing you with valuable information and tools to aid in your local responses.

It is my hope that the establishment of this team will not only strengthen our diocese but also empower each of our churches, schools, and special ministries to navigate any challenges that we may encounter.

With love and prayers,

+Peter