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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG SENDS OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL** – Bishop Robert Lynch, head of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, has sent over 1.2 million dollars in the name of the people of the diocese to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for victims of the earthquake disaster in Haiti. Immediately after the disaster, Bishop Lynch sent \$250,000 dollars before a collection was made, pledging to send whatever was collected to CRS.

At the Bishop's request, collections were taken up the weekends of January 16 & 17 and 23 & 24, 2010 in the 74 parishes and six missions in the diocese. Catholic parishioners responded generously and quadrupled the amount that Bishop Lynch had sent to CRS.

*"To date, CRS has provided food and other essentials to tens of thousands of people. CRS volunteers in the Dominican Republic are filling buckets with crackers, sardines, canned beans and juice boxes. CRS is unloading trucks of wheat to help feed quake survivors who've sought haven on the grounds of a country club and are desperate for food."*-- Ken Hackett, President of CRS, letter January 26th, 2010

The general public can still make donations for Haiti Earthquake relief by making the check payable to Catholic Relief Services (CRS); P. O. Box 17090; Baltimore, MD 21203-7090 or by telephone with a credit card: 1-800-736-3467 or 1-877-435-7277.

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#### **Resources:**

-- Bishop Lynch's Blog, For His Friends - <http://blogs.dosp.org/bishoplynch/>

-- Catholic Relief Services - <http://crs.org/>