



August 18, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza prompts concern from all people of goodwill. As Catholics, we especially are called by Christ to care for the suffering and the needy.

Pastoral concern has prompted the bishops of the United States to take up a collection for the assistance of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas. Many are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions.

I ask you to give generously to this special collection, held in our parishes on the weekend of September 6-7, 2025. Funds received will be passed on to Catholic Relief Services. This group has a long-standing relationship with the Catholic Church in the region, which allows them to provide humanitarian relief and medical assistance quickly and efficiently.

Thank you for doing what you can to support our suffering brothers and sisters in Gaza and surrounding areas. I join with you in praying for peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

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