



ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE-JUNEAU
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 16, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The ongoing situation for the people living in Gaza in the Middle East is desperate. Holy Father Leo continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that “Gaza is starving.”

Given the extraordinary nature of this crisis, and following the guidance of Pope Leo and my brother bishops, I ask all parishes throughout the archdiocese to take up a special collection for the people of Gaza next weekend, August 23-24, 2025. The archdiocese will send all proceeds from this collection directly to **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** and the **Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)**. These organizations are working on the ground in Gaza, providing critical humanitarian assistance and pastoral support through trusted local partnerships.

We pray for peace and for the people of Gaza.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.
Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau