



ANTILLES EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

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March 2nd, 2026

Press Release : The Humanitarian Crisis Affecting the People of Cuba

The Antilles Episcopal Conference conveys its profound pastoral concern for the people of Cuba who are currently enduring grave humanitarian hardships.

Recent developments in the region have resulted in acute shortages of fuel and essential supplies, causing widespread power cuts, disruptions to hospitals and water systems, and serious threats to food security and basic public services in Cuba.

These conditions risk deepening anguish and suffering among ordinary citizens who have already endured much. While Cuba stands in need of renewal and positive change, it does not need more pain. Nor should our brothers and sisters on the island feel isolated from us in their suffering, especially as we have been recipients of their own generosity in the past.

As bishops of the Caribbean, we speak first as members of one human family and one Body in Christ. The Church cannot remain silent when dignity is threatened and access to food, healthcare, and basic necessities becomes increasingly uncertain. Our foremost concern is for families, the elderly, children, and the most vulnerable, who bear the heaviest burdens of circumstances beyond their control.

We acknowledge the appeals voiced by several Caribbean leaders calling for the urgent reconsideration of policies that may deepen the suffering of ordinary people and unsettle the wider region. As a community of nations bound not only by geography but by a shared history and common destiny, the Caribbean experiences suffering not in isolation but in solidarity. When one people endure hardship, the entire region shares in their burden.

We reaffirm the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence in responding to human need. We believe that assistance must reach those most in need without political manipulations or delays. The care we offer to those who are hurting reflects the works of mercy by which we will be judged.

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We express our closeness to the Cuban people at this time, and to the Church in Cuba, whose members continue to serve courageously, and to have hope in the midst of uncertainty.

In the spirit of our previous statements regarding the people of Venezuela and Haiti, we reaffirm our position that solutions must be pursued in a true spirit of genuine concern for our common humanity. Disagreements among nations must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy rather than by coercion or conflict. Humanitarian considerations must never be overshadowed by political or strategic interests.

Within Cuba and across the region, we encourage the fostering of an environment of healthy plurality and mutual respect. Such conditions strengthen both domestic harmony and fruitful international engagement. The risk of deeper social instability is real when basic necessities become inaccessible. All policies, therefore, must be evaluated in light of their human consequences.

At this critical moment, we invite all the faithful of the Caribbean to pray for the people of Cuba, for relief from suffering, for wisdom among leaders, and for pathways to peace, justice, and reconciliation. May solidarity replace indifference, and may charity overcome division.

May Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Patroness of Cuba, intercede for her children and accompany them in hope.

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