



ANTILLES EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

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25th June, 2026

MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN VENEZUELA

From the President of the Antilles Episcopal Conference

The bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference have received with profound sorrow the news of the devastating earthquake that has struck several regions of Venezuela. We assure the people of Venezuela of our prayer, our closeness, and our fraternal solidarity, trusting in the promise of the Lord, who is *"close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit"* (Psalm 34:18).

On behalf of the bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference, I assure the Bishops of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference, the clergy, religious women and men, and all the faithful of our constant prayers. As Saint Paul reminds us, *"If one member suffers, all suffer together"* (1 Corinthians 12:26). Though the Caribbean Sea separates our shores, the communion we share in Christ makes us one family in faith.

The peoples of the Caribbean know well the wounds that natural disasters leave behind. We know the anguish of waiting for news of loved ones, the grief of lives lost, and the long work of rebuilding homes and communities. Yet we have also witnessed how faith gives courage, neighbourly love becomes an instrument of God's providence, and the Church stands as a living sign of Christ's compassionate presence among those who suffer.

We commend to the Lord those who have lost their lives and pray for the consolation of those who mourn. May He protect those in danger, strengthen the injured and displaced, and sustain all engaged in rescue, relief, and recovery. We remember especially the civil authorities, emergency personnel, healthcare workers, volunteers, and all who are serving generously in this time of trial.

We express our solidarity with the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference as it continues to accompany the People of God with faith, pastoral charity, and hope. We are confident that the Church in Venezuela will remain a beacon of consolation, mercy, and steadfast love, helping countless people encounter the healing presence of the Risen Lord.

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We also remember the many Venezuelans living throughout the Caribbean and across the world who anxiously await news of their families and loved ones. May they find comfort in the solidarity of the universal Church and in the assurance that they are not alone.

The faithful throughout the Caribbean will remember the people of Venezuela in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and in personal prayer.

As one family of faith, we entrust Venezuela to the maternal protection of **Our Lady of Coromoto**, Patroness of Venezuela. Through her intercession, may God grant strength to the afflicted, wisdom to those who lead, courage to those who serve, and perseverance to all engaged in rebuilding.

Though the earth has trembled beneath your feet, may your hearts remain firm in Christ, our sure foundation. Confident in His Resurrection, we remain united with you in prayer, trusting that neither suffering nor death can separate us from His love.

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gordon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Reverend Charles Jason Gordon
President
Antilles Episcopal Conference