

Greetings from Saint Leo Abbey,

October 10th 2017

I have been united with the monastic community, praying for all those who have suffered from the recent natural disasters. As you well know, the storms have not ended. Most recently, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, as well as Puerto Rico have been hurt by another storm. God help us that the storms go away and die in the sea.

Recently, when Hurricane Irma hit Florida, I was not in the Abbey. I was in Mexico assisting another monastic community. I had left before the storm was projected to hit our state but with the hope that nothing bad will happen here in Florida. Sad to say it happened. From there I got in touch with the Prior and told him to open the Abbey to anyone who needed shelter. We had 50 rooms available, but it was not enough, we had more people than that. Being far away from the Abbey made me feel bad. I was supposed to be there, I thought. Then, as I returned home to Saint Leo, a devastating earthquake struck Mexico. Thank God my family is doing well; however, I experienced the same feeling that I had about my community during Hurricane Irma, I wanted to be there to give my support. Again, I felt bad that I was not present to give my support.



The Lord works in mysterious ways. I want to thank the monks for their efforts after I told them: "Open the doors to people in need, and serve them as they were Christ," and that is what the monks did. They were kind and welcomed those that sought shelter at Saint Leo Abbey.

Sadly, our old monastery did suffer some damage. The windows of the Abbey are old, in many cases 100 years old, which allowed a significant amount of water to leak inside the building. Some rooms had more than three inches of water as I was told. We will need to fix them very soon and spray some chemical to prevent mold from growing in the monastery.

In the middle of this crisis, God showed his kindness to us. Out of the blue, a person sent me a check, and in the note, he wrote: *"I am sure you will have people with you searching for shelter at the Abbey during the hurricane. Have*

this money so you can cover the costs of the food you will need to feed them.” Such a gift my friends is God’s gift to us. I never thought someone would take the initiative to do something like that. Thank you, Mr. Norman T Givens, Jr. for your generosity.



The community was pleased to open the house to people in need during those days of the hurricane. Now we hope the people of Puerto Rico receive the assistance they desperately need. I hope that in any way you can pray for those who have suffered. I know that many people say that prayers do not help, they need material things. However, as I became an Abbot, the words that I chose to live by, which are in my coat of arms, say: “May the Lord God protect and bless you with peace.” Peace is the most important thing to have. I always bless people and close my letters saying: “May the Lord God bless you with peace of mind and heart.”

I believe that peace is what we need to survive the struggles we face. Peace of mind to make decisions and peace of heart to deal with those feelings that drive us crazy and push us to make the wrong decisions because we cannot make right decisions when our heart or mind are in turmoil.

I am asking you to pray for the people who suffer under the fury of nature, whether it be from the earthquakes or hurricanes around the world. Please pray that God may bless them with peace of mind and heart.



Since the time is already approaching, allow me to ask you for those names of family or friends you want us to pray for in November, the month we remember our loved ones that have died and gone before us.

Friends of Saint Leo, thank you for counting on us in your times of need. The fact that many people showed up searching for shelter here at the Abbey is not only a blessing for them but also a blessing for us as the community was capable of serving them as Christ Himself.

Finally I just want to let you know that whatever contributions you make to the Abbey are used for the specific purpose I asked for. If I say for the windows, they will be used for the windows, or the roof and so on.

If you are willing to send some money along with the names of the people we pray for in November that money is used in the general funds of the Abbey. I thank you for your help and generosity.

May the Lord who brought us together bless you and give you his peace. May He bless you with peace of mind and heart, health of body, and soul.

Abbot Isaac Camacho, O.S.B.



My prayer for the good of Creation.

Father of all mercies
we thank you for the gift of life.
for the gift of friends and family
for all your wonders I thank you.

Father, we see the greatness of creation
the creation you put under our hands.
We have not done a good job in caring
as we should, Forgive us.

Help us to understand and stop us
from being self-centered.
Help us to see in creation:
The power and beauty of nature,
how marvelous the universe is,
and how small we are and at the same time,
how much damage we do to all of it.

Help me, as an individual to do better,
in taking care of creation. Let me be
an example for others to follow.
I want to embrace my own responsibility,
but alone I cannot, help me with your grace.

And when nature scares me, help me to remember
that all you created is in your hands
and that you care for us.

Let me with the Psalmist thank you as I say:
When I see the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man kind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

You have created us a little less than angels
and crowned us with glory and honor
You made us rulers over the works of your
hands: all the flocks and herds,
the animals of the wild, and birds of the sky,
the fish of the sea and all that swim in them.
O Lord, our God how majestic is your name,
how awesome you are!

Help me to do my job!

