

HOW WE THINK ABOUT THINGS

Many took time this past Thursday for a silent remembrance of the World Trade Center tragedy of 2001—then went on with our lives. Of course we pretty well have to keep moving on, but I wonder what we're thinking of with the new tragedy only one day after the 9-11 anniversary: that of the landfall of Hurricane Ike.

I wonder about the people suffering with no food, water, or medicines; so very little can be done to get sufficient supplies to these folks. I wonder about the role Cardinal DiNardo is playing in leading the local Church there: how similar in nature (though much larger in scale) must be his part, compared to that of then-Bishop Rodi in Biloxi after Hurricane Katrina... There is talk of smaller communities outside Galveston, like Gilchrist, that are "almost completely gone." How like the stories of Chalmette in Louisiana, or Waveland in Mississippi, after Katrina. And typically they get help last, and publicity almost not at all.

I am expecting that there will be a special collection called for, for relief of the people of Galveston-Houston. Whether or not, I will call for one for Our Savior parish, next weekend, 9-27/28 (since there is already a 2nd collection, for Catholic University, this weekend). Historically, we have helped with relief for the tsunami in SE Asia, victims of Katrina along all the Gulf Coast, and in other ways when extraordinary needs arose. I know the people of Our Savior will respond with the generosity that is motivated by love and concern. There is little else we can do beyond offering funds to help get supplies and aid into that devastated area. But what we can do, we will do.