



Kayla, Sarah, Katelyn, Heather, Caitlyn at Washington Cathedral

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Correspondence from Puerto Rico

**I sent out a sort of “Hail Mary” email shortly after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, with the understanding that I might not hear from either Damaris or Lorraine because of power problems. Heather did the same. These are their responses in full to me. I hope you will print these and share them with people at your Annual Conventions, ECW meetings, etc. to give people an eyewitness account of the serious needs of the people of Puerto Rico and what they are experienciing. I am going to print them back to back and put them on the tables at our Annual Council this week. Anything bolded or in italics is my addition to provide additional information.**

Sent October 4, 2017 from Damaris

Dear Sandra,

Is so good to hear from you!!! These are difficult times, but we relay in our good God and his everlasting love.

We are supporting and helping Bishop Morales' initiatives. Our biggest challenge is the lack of communication with some of our congregations. Last week we sent some groups to different areas, they brought important information about material and pastoral needs, but they couldn't reach the clergy in some rural areas. Another group sent today will arrive tomorrow, hopefully with news. Please pray for them, the area that they will try to visit is where our most vulnerable people live.

On Monday arrived a resource from ERD, that is mentoring us in this situation. Also, a Pastoral Support Team is taking form, to attend not only material, but psycho-spiritual needs. I am working in that team.

*How can you help? (my highlight, SKS)*

First of all, your prayers are welcome. This is a stressful and challenging situation. I recognize sometimes I feel frustrated, since we have some money (donations received), but is very difficult to buy food and water, since the government is in charge of distribution. Pray for Bishop Morales, he's being a caring and loving pastor, he really cares for us. That's a blessing!

Immediately we need food, water and OTC (*over the counter*) medicines. I heard that a bank account is open locally, and also GEMNS has another one. (<http://www.gemn.org> to donate to this fund for PR)

Later we will need support in some congregations, since some buildings have been damaged. For example, the one you visited at Aibonito, Holy Spirit, has been destroyed (roof, windows, etc). Others have lost partially their roofs. We have 3 clergy that lost totally or partially their homes; 100+ laypeople in the same situation.

I'm sorry it took me so long to answer this message. Communications are still a headache.

Thanks for your prayers and support. We are working hard to be the missionary church that Bishop Morales proclaims we are.

Blessings for you and the Board of Directors.  
Damaris De Jesús Carrasquillo, Ph.D.  
Secretaria de Asamblea

Sent October 15, 2017 from Lorraine

Hi Sandra. So great hearing from you. Sorry I couldn't respond sooner but as Damaris mentioned communication is horrible. I am now getting some and even internet at times. I second everything Damaris said. We are all trying to help one another. Puerto Rico is devastated but slowly picking up thanks first to the Lord, all those who have arrived to put order and all the humanitarians who are helping giving their special grain.

Electrical posts and cables are being restored and the armed forces are directing traffic and trying to keep order along with our police.

Like Damaris said we still need prayers especially to maintain patience and peace. Water is hard to come by. Food as well but through my experience it's hard to just go to the supermarket. Lines are horrendous to purchase anything. I believe there's electricity at about 12% of the island. What worries me is the people who live so high up mountains that it's so difficult for them to get around so much so that their food supply is much more minimal and their houses have been destroyed.

Bishop Morales is working so hard and assuring that all the communities have some help. He's non-stop.

I'll keep in touch. My deepest thank you for your and everyone's concerns and prayers. A big warm hug to you and the board.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Lorraine Candelario  
UTO Coordinator for Diocese of Puerto Rico

Organizations to Learn More About within the Episcopal Church

Please start adding to the list of those organizations within the Episcopal Church that seem to be good connections for us when we are in Austin next summer. I assume we all agree that we need to have representation at ECW and CPC (Church Periodical Club) events.

I would like to start out with these organizations and events on our list, with specifics to follow:

Asian American (EAM & Partnership—Office for Asia and Pacific) Luncheon—Date ??  
Episcopal Church Historically Black Colleges Committee (appointed by Executive Council)  
Episcopal Relief and Development Event (erd.org)  
Ethnic Ministries  
Global Episcopal Mission Network (gemn.org)  
Integrity Worship Service  
Latino Ministries  
Seminary Dinners/Receptions  
Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE.org)  
    UBE is having a gala at General Convention on July 4.  
United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (Lynnaia Main at  
[lmain@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:lmain@episcopalchurch.org))

Please send me any information you have about what and when things are happening at GC/Triennial.

#### Gift of Navajo Crosses for Service

As you now know, you will be receiving a Navajo-silver cross with UTO engraved on it with a stone. Based on the straw poll of size and style, the **3" rounded cross was the preferred size** and style, and is what you will all receive. Heather will be mailing you your cross.

FYI, this cross is the gift to commemorate your service on the UTO Board, and would have normally been given at the time of your going off the Board, which applies to most of you, next summer. Because the silversmith was able to finish them early, we are able to give them to you early. Because so few of the Board will remain during the next triennium everyone on the Board will receive this gift so you can wear it as the first people to receive the UTO cross.

I hope you will treasure this gift for your service, and know that you will be able to wear it with pride that you have lovingly served on the UTO Board. Other than what individual members may wish to give one another, this will be the only gift to recognize your service. And it is given with great thanks for your extraordinary service to the ministry of UTO.

#### Session on Becoming a Beloved Community with Canon Spellors

A thank you has been sent to Canon Spellors, but also thank you to the Board members who were able to make the Zoom meeting with her. I had hoped that we could provide a recording of the session, but it was not on our Zoom account, making it possible for Heather to record it. However, Canon Spellors has provided a copy of the power point presentations and Heather has sent those to you. The drop box link gives you both the summary and the full document on Becoming a Beloved Community.

You may recall the comments Canon Speller **made about Episcopal Church's Historically Black Colleges**. This is a link to an article about that very subject and includes comments on Becoming a Beloved Community. <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/10/05/beyond-relevant-the-episcopal-churchs-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>

#### **Photo Contest for Julia Chester Emery's Birthday Celebration**

Thanks to those of you who participated in the balloting for your favorite JCE celebration. The winners—drum roll please, were Diocese of Costa Rica for the winner from a grant site, and Grace Church, Chadron, Nebraska, for the parish photos.

I was pleased for Sally Zahn, the new UTO Coordinator at Grace Church, Chadron. Sally was appointed shortly before I met her in August, and she has the knack for making things fun. I am sure she will be pleased as will her priest, Fr. John Adams, a young priest who is making a difference in Western Nebraska. This recognition will be a real shot in the arm for Grace Church.

Prayer for Las Vegas

This prayer was in a recent issue of an e-newsletter from the Washington National Cathedral:

## **A Prayer for Las Vegas**

Almighty God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; comfort the injured and all whose lives have been forever changed by the tragic shooting in Las Vegas. Grant to those who lost their lives eternal rest with you and may all who mourn know the consolation of your love. We also pray for an end to gun violence in our land that our homes, schools and neighborhoods may become places of safety for all. All this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **Courtesy Resolution**

This resolution will be on the UTO blog site, but thought I might include it here.

I am using it at our Annual Council here in Nebraska this week. I had to modify it since I did not meet the deadline, and I just included it in my report for UTO. If you can use it, or a modification, please feel free to do so. SKS



**Courtesy Resolution Recognizing  
the 165<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Julia Chester Emery,  
and her work on behalf of United Thank Offering  
and Women in The Episcopal Church**

Be it resolved, the delegates concurring, that the **NUMBER** Annual Council of the Diocese of **NAME** of The Episcopal Church recognizes the 165<sup>th</sup> birthday of Julia Chester Emery, who along with Ida Soule, founded the United Offering in 1889, later called the United Thank Offering (UTO). She was the Secretary of the Woman’s Auxiliary at the age of 22, a position she held for 40 years. Ms. Emery helped establish a network of women volunteers to support mission work in The Episcopal Church through “box work”- boxes of necessary gifts- which were given annually to missionaries throughout the world. She also fought tirelessly for the canonical status of women ordained through the Deaconess program, a precursor to women’s ordination. Monetary collections given to the United Thank Offering funded women missionaries—domestic and foreign, missionary bishops, built deaconess houses, and later established a pension fund for women missionaries. In addition, the United Thank Offering has built churches, schools, and hospitals, purchased vehicles, and started other new ministries, work that it continues to this day. In 2015 UTO Board created the United Thank Offering Julia Chester Emery Internship and recently hired its third intern.

Ms. Emery’s work continues through the spiritual discipline of gratitude as demonstrated through daily thanksgivings for God’s blessings and gifts to Blue Boxes which have given \$133,242,104.47 in grants and gifts to missionaries during the last 128 years. These annual grants to churches, dioceses, young adults and seminarians support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

Julia Chester Emery was a remarkable woman in The Episcopal Church whose legacy touched the lives of many, including those in the Diocese of **NAME**. Through Ingatherings and grants, we recognize her contributions to the work of women and mission in The Episcopal Church. Happy Birthday 165<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Julia Chester Emery!

#### WORD FOR THE DAY

People are like stained glass windows: They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within.

ELISABETH KÜBLER-ROSS