



Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2011

No Earthquake Damage, Martin Luther King Prayer Service Moved to Basilica

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., sustained no damage—structural or otherwise—as a result of the 5.8 magnitude earthquake that struck on Tuesday, August 23, 2011.

The Basilica is open for its regular hours of operation, liturgical schedule, and other scheduled events.

We are grateful for the many prayers and inquiries of concern for the safety of our staff and for the integrity of the National Shrine. We ask you to join us in praying for those who have sustained personal injury or property damage. In particular, we wish to remember our friends at the Washington National Cathedral in Northwest D.C.

Because of the damage sustained by the National Cathedral, the Prayer Service Celebrating the Dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, scheduled for Saturday, August 27 at 10 a.m., has been moved to the Basilica, same date and time. The Interfaith Prayer Service is by invitation only; passes are required for admittance; all passes have been distributed. For more information on this and other MLK Memorial events, please visit www.dedicatethedream.org.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is pleased to assist Washington National Cathedral in their time of need and honor Dr. Martin Luther King as the nation pays tribute to his life and legacy.

Statement By Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, Rector Of The Basilica

As a normal course in life, neighbors should help neighbors. We are not meant to live in isolation. But, when tragedy strikes, neighbors should most especially be present to help lift up their neighbor and support them in their time of need. This is particularly true for Christians and all people of good will who call upon God as Father.

Both the Washington National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception are landmark religious institutions in Washington. And so when one landmark in Washington was affected by the earthquake, it was only natural for the other to reach out in Christian solidarity to help the other. I trust that Dr. King would be pleased, not with the damage the earthquake caused, but that “all God’s children” are “joining hands.”

NB: Construction on the front walk of the Basilica has been in progress since early June and is unrelated to and was unaffected by the earthquake.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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