Episcopal
Relief & Development
Working Together for Lasting Change

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana
Emergency Disaster Grant Report
Tropical Rainstorm Arthur
July 28, 2026

Tropical rainstorm Arthur made landfall on June 17 and 18, 2026 in Louisiana. Louisiana Radio Network reported that Louisiana's agricultural sector alone suffered $112 million in loses, with $88 million in crop loses, and $22 million in infrastructure damage in Avoyelles, St. Landry, and Rapides parishes. Louisiana Radio Network

Tropical Storm Arthur brought severe flooding and widespread disruption to Pointe Coupee in New Roads Parish, with impacts felt across the north and central parts of the parish. The heavy rainfall created flooding across the parish where 14 -17 inches of rain impacting at least 50 homes. Most of these families did not have flood insurance and have been left to recover on their own. Point Coupee families continue to recovery efforts as stated by WBRZ2 news.

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, with a $10,000 emergency grant from Episcopal Relief and Development, allowed us to immediately visit the area impacted, assess the needs, and provide gifts cards to 25 families impacted. One of the beneficiaries was interviewed by WBRZ2 who was also instrumental at helping the Diocese connect to impacted families in need. This is the first time the diocese has been able to provide support in Point Coupee, an effort led by Bishop Shannon Duckworth and the diocesan Disaster and Preparedness team: Karla duPlantier, Michelle Aguirre, and Jessica Lee.

The team reached out to two local Latino restaurants, El Patio Mexican Restaurant Bar & Grill and La Cocina de Maria Mexican Restaurant in New Roads, LA and immediately ordered American Express gift cards to take to Point Coupee. The case manager reached out to the restaurant owners, who were reluctant to give any information over the phone. Recurring calls to establish a relationship and share the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana's intention opened the opportunity to make connections. A in-person meeting referred the case manager to a local elementary school principal with Latino families impacted by the storm. The principal shared that no other organizations in the area was providing gift cards to families impacted. The partnership with the school principal identified 25 families in need, with each meeting the case manager during their lunch breaks from work and sharing their stories. Most of the families are single mothers and people with disabilities. After spending the day with the principal visiting homes impacted, Intake forms were collected and testimonials along with pictures of the damages. This partnership allowed for 25 impacted families to receive a total of $10,000 for immediate recovery needs. Data and testimonials can be found in the Formstack Intake Form. A Gratitude Letter from the community is a testament of the importance and impact Episcopal Relief and Development has with the communities of Pointe Coupee, Metairie and Kenner.