



Statement of
Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, SLD
Archbishop of Atlanta
Regarding Conservation Initiatives
September 23, 2005

In light of a possible disruption to the region's already strapped fuel supply due to Hurricane Rita and in solidarity with conservation initiatives introduced today by Governor Sonny Perdue for the state of Georgia, the Archdiocese of Atlanta wishes to announce the following directives:

- All Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Atlanta will be closed Monday and Tuesday, September 26 and 27. No practices, workouts, or extracurricular activities should take place in any area including athletics, arts and sciences. All parent conferences, guest speakers and board meetings should also be canceled. Parents who have children in independent Catholic schools within the boundaries of the Archdiocese such as Marist, Pinecrest Academy, Holy Spirit Prep, Notre Dame Academy, Msgr. Walter Donovan High School, and the Solidarity School, should contact these respective schools for directives.
- Employees at the Catholic Center will work four 10-hour days from Monday, September 26 through Thursday, September 29. The Catholic Center will be closed on Friday. Please check with directors of Archdiocesan offices if meetings or activities that were originally scheduled for Friday need to be rescheduled.
- All archdiocesan employees are encouraged to carpool and/or telecommute when possible in the coming week.
- Pastors and principals are asked to use their discretion to determine which parish and/or school activities in the coming week should be changed in any way and communicate these changes to those affected.
- The conservation plan of the archdiocese will be reevaluated as needed and communicated to those affected as soon as possible.

Archbishop of Atlanta Wilton D. Gregory expressed his renewed concerns for the devastated coastal region as Hurricane Rita was only hours away from landfall.

"During this time of uncertainty and strain our prayers go out to those in the path of Hurricane Rita and to those who still struggle in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," said Archbishop Gregory. "We are anxious to step up efforts in North Georgia, fuel conservation being one of them, as we continue to help alleviate the burden carried by those from the Gulf Coast any way we can."

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