



PRESIDENT, RISSHO KOSEI-KAI

NICHIKO NIWANO

Rev William G. Sinkford
President, UUA

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Dear Rev. Sinkford,

On behalf of all members of Risho Kosei-kai, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to members of the UUA congregations and everyone affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

At Risho Kosei-kai, we are praying for the peaceful repose of people who have perished and for the speedy return to normalcy of everyone affected in the Gulf Coast. These are trying times for those who have lost their loved ones, their homes, and their communities and who now face an uncertain future. I believe, however, that God and the Buddha will give them the strength to persevere and emerge from this disaster stronger in their faith, and am certain that under your leadership, the UUA is doing its utmost to alleviate the suffering of displaced people through its UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund and also through its Trauma Response Ministry.

For a religious leader and a person of faith, the highest concern is providing for spiritual needs in a time of crisis—not only the needs of people directly affected by Katrina and Rita, but of people everywhere. Your inspiring Pastoral Message of September 6, “A Gentle, Angry People,” asks that we deeply reflect upon the difficult truths laid bare in hurricane Katrina’s wake, respect and revere the preciousness and sacredness of every life, and embrace all of the sisters and brothers of our one human family. As Rita is now reopening wounds in New Orleans and causing new misery to the people living along the Louisiana and Texas coast, there will be an even greater need for your wise, compassionate ministry.

At Risho Kosei-kai, we are in solidarity with you and all members of the UUA, because we, too, believe that together we can, and will, “craft a vision grounded in the search for justice, equity and compassion.”

Sincerely yours,

Nichiko Niwano
President