

Notre Dame Support in the Tragic Flood in Southern Brazil Canoas, Brazil



Thousands of families watched in bewilderment during the heavy rains in May as flood waters invaded their houses forcing them to leave. Since they had no way to combat the strong currents, the people had to abandon everything to save their lives.

Unlike the Sagrada Família School in Rolante, the Sisters of Notre Dame in Canoas were not surprised by the flooding of their residence. However, from the evening of May 3rd to the 5th, a steady stream of people arrived daily on foot, in army trucks, and in various other rescue vehicles. Among the thousands left homeless, approximately 1,100 sought refuge at Colégio Maria Auxiliadora, the Provincial House, and Recanto Aparecida, knowing they could rely on the Sisters for help.

Trusting in God's providence, the Sisters counted on the support of the Notre Dame family—employees, volunteers, students, alumni, and families—to assist those left homeless by the flood. They provided shelter, food, clothing, hygiene products, medical and psychological assistance, prayer sessions, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Mass.

This support continued throughout May and into early June, as people were gradually relocated to other shelters or returned to what remained of their homes. The Notre Dame family, along with the sisters of Our Lady Aparecida and Holy Cross provinces, is grateful to everyone for their support. It shows again that our mission is to serve others with unconditional love, to respect one's human dignity, and to instill courage and hope in those in need during times of crisis.