



Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS

Dear Friend,

Happy Thanksgiving!

I love this time of year! I really, really do. I love the crisp air, the falling leaves, the first snow fall, Thanksgiving and of course Christmas. And I am not going to lie, as mother of six children, I also love a good end of the year clearance sale. A friend recently emailed me a meme that said "Fact: Snow in November happens because people decorate for Christmas prematurely. You know who you are. Stop it." Yep, that's me.

But I must come clean. This is also a very stressful time of year. I find myself fighting the end of the year work deadlines, budgeting "creatively" to make sure Christmas presents can be bought and wishing there was more time in the day to get everything done.

And then there are the telephone calls.

I am speaking of the calls we receive at Catholic Charities that seem to come more frequently this time of year. Those seeking assistance sound a bit more distressed, fearful and uncertain as they seek food or shelter from the cold, a Christmas present for their child, or financial assistance to keep their heat on. I want to throw up my hands and say "God, the need is too great, what more can we possibly do!"

And then I hear: ***"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35).***

I am reminded that God is not asking me, or you, to solve the world's problems alone; he is simply asking each of us to love the person that is next to us.

A priest friend of mine recently shared a story about a person who asked St. Teresa of Calcutta the secret to holiness. She simply said "perseverance." I wasn't expecting that answer. I will admit that I was expecting a more profound statement, something wiser sounding, perhaps empowering. Not perseverance. Perseverance sounded to me...well, unexciting. But then I began to think about the meaning of perseverance which is the persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. When God asks each of us to love our neighbor, he doesn't say it will be easy, but he does ask us to persevere in our love for one another.



It seems only fitting that this month, the month of Thanksgiving, **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is celebrating its 100th Anniversary.** That is 100 years of walking with men, women, and children, the elderly, the homeless, the newborn, the pregnant mother, the hungry, the refugee and the immigrant. It is 100 years of volunteers and staff who answered the door each time and listened, encouraged, assisted, offered a smile of hope and in that moment said, "You are not alone." What great examples of perseverance!

On November 20th, Catholic Charities will celebrate their 100th Anniversary with Mass at 5:30 p.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Archbishop Thompson will be our main celebrant. I can think of no better way to celebrate and offer thanks to our Catholic Charities staff and volunteers, to those who have given financially, and to those who trusted us enough to invite us to walk with them during their difficult times. More importantly, it is a beautiful way to give thanks to God for his gift of the virtue of fortitude, which can lead to perseverance. Please join us on November 20th at 5:30 p.m. We would love to see you.

I want to leave you with some related thoughts from Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, *God is Love (Deus caritas est)*. I see this quote more as a prayer for each of us to take to heart in those moments when we grow weary:

"Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbor and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me. No longer is it a question, then, of a "commandment" imposed from without and calling for the impossible, but rather of a freely-bestowed experience of love from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love. Love is "divine" because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a "we" which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

I pray that during this Thanksgiving season each of us experiences the love of Christ as we see him in one another.

Sincerely in Christ,

Theresa Chamblee

Catholic Charities - Director of Social Concerns

[Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns](#)

**Catholic Campaign for
Human Development (CCHD)**



**The Annual Catholic Campaign for Human
Development (CCHD)
2nd Collection will be held the weekend of
November 23-24**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is an instrument of the Catholic Church working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18)

CCHD is the official domestic anti-poverty agency of the U.S. Catholic Bishops and works to break the cycle of poverty by helping people help themselves.

To learn more about the CCHD, visit [HERE](#)

[Read Archbishop Thompson's invitation](#)

to all parishes to participate in the Annual CCHD Collection

List of Local CCHD Grantees for 2019 and 2018

2019

[Anna's House at the Lord's Pantry](#)

[Bloomington Catholic Charities for Positive Parenting
Program](#)

[John P. Craine House](#)

[DAT House](#)

[Bedford Men's Warming Center](#)

2018

Anna's House at the Lord's Pantry
Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC)
Bedford Men's Warming Center
St. Elizabeth's - Catholic Charities - Culinary Program
St. Monica - Witherspoon Food Pantry
Teen Mother Choices - Batesville

CCHD - Multimedia Youth Contest Creating on the Margins

***Teacher, Educators, Youth Ministers,
Campus Ministers, and Young Artists
Please Read***

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development
announces the 2020 contest

CREATING ON THE MARGINS

WHO? Students in grades 7-12
WHAT? Create a work of art about our Catholic response
to poverty and unaffordable housing
WHEN? From now until March 2020
DETAILS? Visit www.USCCB.org/YouthContest

2020 Contest Theme: "More than a Roof"



The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Creating on the Margins Contest is a tool to engage young people in grades 7-12 in learning about poverty in the U.S., its root causes, and faith-inspired efforts to address poverty, especially through CCHD.

The theme of this year's contest is "More Than a Roof" and reflects upon how the crisis of unaffordable housing and homelessness affects both families and individuals in our communities. "A house is much more than a roof over one's head. It is a place where a person creates and lives out his or her life." – St. John Paul II

The contest is designed to be used *across disciplines*. Contestant art entries can be of any form—for example, video, short story, painting, song, photography, etc. The contest requires that students respond to four reflective essay questions. Youth in

grades 7-12 are eligible to participate.

Schools and parishes submit **art entries, reflection essays, and permission forms** to the Archdiocese no later than **February 26, 2020**. The voting committee will select winners for each grade category (grades 7-9 and grades 10-12). Local winners will be honored at a Catholic Charities event and featured in The Criterion. The diocesan winning entries will be sent to the CCHD national office for judging in the national contest. The national CCHD office will then select a national grand prize winner and other winners. The national grand prize winner will be awarded his/her prize on the main stage of a national Catholic conference.

If you are interested in participating in this year's contest, please send the name of your school, a contact for the art contest, and any questions you may have to the **Catholic Charities Social Concerns Intern, Molly Smith** at msmith@archindy.org or call at (317) 236-1457.

To Learn More about the Archindy Multimedia Contest- [VISIT HERE](#)



National CCHD Contest Packets Information/ Instructions

[Young Artists / Artistas Jovenes](#)

[Educators/ Educadores](#)

Catholic Charities 100th Anniversary

#BETHELIGHT

CATHOLIC CHARITIES – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

#BeTheLight

Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was founded in 1919 to serve the poor and hurting of the Indianapolis community. Our programs provide quality services in **counseling, child, youth and family support, eldercare, emergency and specialized services, and pregnancy and adoption services.**

In 2017-18 Catholic Charities Indianapolis programs served nearly 75,000 people. Among those served, the majority are women and children, who live below the federal poverty level. Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers we can provide quality services to more individuals and families in need.

[Check out the Catholic Charities 100 Year Timeline](#)

Catholic Relief Services

Hurricane Dorian Relief - Bahamas



On August, 24th Hurricane Dorian slammed into the Bahamas

causing massive devastation. Catholic Relief Services—along with local partners—worked quickly to assess immediate and long term needs. Donations help bring relief, in the form of food, emergency shelter, and safe water, to affected families. They also help in the long term rebuilding as Bahamians work to rebuild their homes and community.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Though the Bahamas may be 1,167 miles away from Indiana, that doesn't stop Hoosiers within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to generously support their brothers and sisters in their time of extreme need.

Total Collection: \$5,540.00

Donations:

[Online at CRS.org](https://www.catholicreliefservices.org)

or via check made out to Catholic Relief Services
Mail to: Attn. Theresa Chamblee
1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Advent Resources

Catholic Charities

Once again, Catholic Charities USA will offer Advent and Christmas reflections authored by Catholic Charities employees and other social concerns ministers, which arrive by email each morning. [Sign up here to receive them.](#)

Catholic Relief Services

Check out the CRS reflections, activities and prayers that invite the entire parish community to prepare their hearts to welcome Emmanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23), into our world at Christmas.

[Advent Resources for you and your parish or parish school.](#)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

[Advent Calendar and Advent Resources for the entire family.](#)

Catholic Charities USA Angel Tree

Catholic Charities USA is teaming up with Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition and Prison Fellowship in the Angel Tree Christmas Program.

EVERY CHILD HAS A STORY

For 2.7 million children in the U.S., that story may be filled with the abandonment, loneliness, and shame that come from having a mom or dad in prison. For many, it may also include following their parents down the same destructive road to incarceration. Angel Tree®, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ. Every Angel Tree parent's family is also given access to a free, easy-to-read copy of the Bible (available in English or Spanish). And while Angel Tree starts with a gift, the it doesn't end in December. All year, you can join Angel Tree to help to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families in your community. From Angel Tree Camping® to Angel Tree Sports Clinic™ to mentoring opportunities, there are so many ways for churches, organizations, and volunteers to have a lasting impact on the lives of Angel Tree children, their caregivers, and their families!

To Learn More how you can help show the Love of Christ to children with incarcerated parents - [CLICK HERE](#)

[See how your Time and Donations make a difference.](#)

If you missed the recent webinar co-sponsored by CCUSA with the Angel Tree Program, which partners with over 160 Catholic parishes to provide incarcerated parents a pathway to strengthen relationships with their children and families at Christmas, you may access the webinar's recording [at this link.](#)

Highlights of Your Great Work **St. Vincent de Paul Parish** **Bedford, IN**

Spaghetti on the Square

A little over 4 years ago, Pastor Rick Eldred and several volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, IN saw a real need to help house and feed the growing number of homeless men in the

community. It really hit home after one particularly cold day a man was found frozen to death after not being able to find shelter in the night.

Through persistence and perseverance, the Bedford Men's Warming Center opened its door in 2015. What started as a center that was only open a little over 3 months out of the year and staffed by St. Vincent de Paul parish volunteers, grew into an interfaith community effort that is now open from November to April. Over six faith community share in the preparation of daily hot meals and ministering to the men who visit the shelter.

On September 28th, the first (and to be annual) **Spaghetti on the Square** Fundraiser took place. The idea was to have multiple churches holding a spaghetti dinner on the same night with proceeds going to the Warming Center. The goal was to raise \$2000 to \$3000.

As the idea began to spread throughout the community, it evolved from having it at separate locations to having it at one location, the Bedford Town Square. As Jennifer Richason, one of the key organizers of the event, stated, "Our volunteers started prayer and the doors started flying open."

Within in four weeks, donations started pouring in from the community that included food, drinks, live music, a snow cone machine, games and even table centerpieces. By the end of the evening, over \$12,000 was raised!

Thank you for Fr. Rick Eldred and Jennifer Richason for sharing this wonderful example of a community coming together to show the love of Christ to the Bedford community and the men who seek shelter at the Bedford Men's Warming Center.

Jennifer summed it up nicely when she said, "This was our first year. None of those who work on the event had ever lead an event so large. Though there were leaders, we lead by faith! It took our village to pull it off! We are so impressed that there are so many big hearts in our small town! I believe the Lord is pulling and pushing for change. He works through us, his people. We are his hands and we are his feet. I feel that he is very pleased with little ole Bedford."

Check out some of the pictures below!





Giving Tuesday Dec. 3rd

**Giving Tuesday falls on
December 3rd, 2019.**

**Your generosity and compassion
can make a difference in
someone's life - TODAY.**

Please remember our [Catholic Charities Agencies](#), [Catholic Relief Services](#) and Catholic Charities - Social Concerns as you prayerfully consider your financial donations.



"The poor are all those who stand in need of our love, our time, our interest, our concern. Our wealth is not necessarily our money. It is

Reflection for the Month of November

Pope Benedict God is Love (Deus caritas est)

18. Love of neighbour is thus shown to be possible in the way proclaimed by the Bible, by Jesus. It consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, even affecting my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend. Going beyond exterior appearances, I perceive in others an interior desire for a sign of love, of concern. This I can offer them not only through the organizations intended for such purposes, accepting it perhaps as a political necessity. Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave. Here we see the necessary interplay between love of God and love of neighbour which the *First Letter of John* speaks of with such insistence. If I have no contact whatsoever with God in my life, then I cannot see in the other anything more than the other, and I am incapable of seeing in him the image of God. But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be "devout" and to perform my "religious duties", then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely "proper", but loveless. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbour and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbour can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me. The saints—consider the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta—constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbour from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord, and conversely this encounter acquired its realism and depth in their service to others. Love of God and love of neighbour are thus inseparable, they form a single commandment. But both live from the love of God who has loved us first. No longer is it a question, then, of a "commandment" imposed from without and calling for the impossible, but rather of a freely-bestowed experience of love from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love. Love is "divine" because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a "we" which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

Prayer of the Month

Catholic Charities Centennial Prayer

In honor of our centennial year, please join us in prayer for those that serve and

have been served by Catholic Charities.

Loving God...

We are grateful that you have entrusted the care of the poor and vulnerable to us. Your infinite grace has helped people overcome the challenges of poverty, hunger, homelessness, addiction, violence, aging, and abuse.

As Catholic Charities, we are profoundly blessed to have the lives of the poor intersect with our own. We know that in helping these least ones, we are serving you.

We are privileged, dear Lord, to be your ears when we hear their cries; your eyes when we see them suffer. Help us be your hands to feed, clothe, and shelter them; your voice to comfort them; your feet to walk beside them; your shoulders to carry them; your strength to help them persevere; your light to bring them hope.

As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we thank you, Lord, for all those who serve or have been served by Catholic Charities. We ask for your continued blessings as we carry out our mission of compassionate and loving care of those who need it most.

Amen.

Ministries of Catholic Charities Social Concerns

What is Social Concerns?

Social Concerns encourages the Community to grow in a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching by providing resources and strategies for effective action in parishes, schools and surrounding communities. Most importantly, it calls us to a deeper understanding in living out the Two Greatest Commandments, which is to Love God and to Love our Neighbors, both locally and globally."

Below are the Ministries that fall under Catholic Charities - Social Concerns.





we are one family under God



Love Your Neighbor



Share the Journey
#sharejourney



Catholic Charities - Social Concerns | Theresa Chamblee
317-236-1404 | fax 317-261-3375 | Tchamblee@archindy.org www.Archindy.org/socialconcerns



ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS