Care Enough to Act
Pray ● Volunteer ● Donate

Inside
Message from Bishop Frederick F. Campbell
Diocesan Sponsored Catholic Charities
- Catholic Social Services
- J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner City Needs)
- St. Francis Center
- St. Stephen’s Community House
- St. Vincent Family Center
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Columbus
www.charities.colsdioc.org
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Christians we are called to read the signs of the times. Over the past three years need in the 23 counties of the diocese has skyrocketed. Hunger is on the rise in Ohio. More of our brothers and sisters live in poverty and are in need of emergency assistance to make ends meet. There are families who need help for their children with a severe mental illness. Over a quarter of our seniors are living alone and have no family or friends to check on them. The average age of a homeless person is nine years old. 1 in 4 women experience a form of domestic violence.

These are some of the realities that our Catholic Charities encounter every day. And why do they help? Because belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls for a response to need – that we, individually and collectively, care enough to act. Providing help to those in need is a moral imperative for us who bear the name of Christ. An inseparable part of the great commandment to love God with our whole being is to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. And to recognize that whenever we see someone in need that person is our neighbor. Charity or Caritas means love. Our diocesan Catholic Charities are an expression of our collective commitment to the virtue of love for the poor and most vulnerable in our community.

In addition to the parish based efforts and organizations that serve the poor and vulnerable, we have several diocesan sponsored agencies and organizations that respond to need and act in our name. Our diocesan Catholic Charities include Catholic Social Services, J.O.I.N., St. Francis Center in McArthur, St. Stephen’s Community House, St. Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They witness to our faith in the incarnate Son of God who taught us to live with compassion and to serve the hungry, the thirsty, the naked and the stranger.

All of us are called to help in some way according to our abilities. The first thing that we can do is to pray for those in need and for those who seek to help them. Secondly, we can consider the role of volunteerism. Many needs can be addressed through the capable and committed service of volunteers. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been built upon this premise. Volunteers from around the diocese work each day to provide help and hope to those in need. Many of our diocesan organizations can benefit from your service as a volunteer.

Other services like behavioral healthcare, certified childcare and counseling, require staff with specialized knowledge and facilities specifically designed to provide that type of service. Specialized services require professional training, certification, and licensure. These vital services, and others that require paid staff, come with a cost to ensure quality of care. With decreasing community and government resources, our personal contributions are critical to maintain these high level services. Donated funds help our agencies leverage other resources and remain faithful witnesses to the mission of Caritas entrusted to them.

I invite you to learn more about our diocesan Catholic Charities and who they serve. Today offers an opportunity for us to rediscover in a personal way the call to love of neighbor, especially to those in need. Visit the website www.charities.colsdioc.org for more information.


Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.
Bishop of Columbus
Catholic Social Services (CSS) is a faith-based agency focused on improving the quality of life for people of all faiths and backgrounds in need throughout central and southern Ohio. It has offices in Columbus, Heath, Portsmouth, and Zanesville.

CSS helps vulnerable people at their most vulnerable times. It is careful not to duplicate services, but rather to fill unmet needs and to bridge the gap where other services fall short. CSS programs are focused to strengthen families, guide individuals toward economic stability, and serve as an extended family giving care and support to senior citizens.

Its services for individuals and families include counseling to address life’s challenges, as well as post-abortion counseling and crisis pregnancy counseling; domestic violence batterers intervention and anger management in Scioto County; Pathways to Hope, which offers supportive casework for women with children who are survivors of domestic violence; and HOME Choice, providing casework services to help those in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities re-establish independent living.

Services for older adults include supportive casework services to enable seniors to remain independent for as long as possible; money management assistance to increase older adults’ ability to remain financially independent; peer senior companionship to reduce isolation; homemaker services for older adults; a long-term care ombudsman program to advocate for residents in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities; and, in Licking County, transportation to medical appointments.

CSS also offers emergency material assistance, emergency food assistance through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, and a payee services program helping those who cannot manage their own financial affairs.

Catholic Social Services
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

MAIN OFFICE
197 E. Gay Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 221-5891
Fax: (614) 228-1125
www.colscss.org

PORTSMOUTH
1025 Kinneys Lane
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
(740) 353-3185
Fax: (740) 353-3186

LICKING COUNTY
575 B Industrial Parkway
Heath, Ohio 43056
(740) 345-2565
Fax: (740) 345-0199

ZANESVILLE
45 North Fourth Street
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
(740) 452-5057
Fax: (740) 452-2448

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CENTER
441 Industry Drive
(corner of Valleyview Dr.)
Columbus, OH 43204
(614) 274-4521

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Columbus
www.charities.colsdioc.org
JOIN was founded in 1967 by a group of Columbus priests and ministers to begin serving their inner-city neighbors, and its work of charity for God’s poor has not stopped since then. Today, JOIN serves 100 families each day. Assistance comes in the form of counseling and determining the needs, not merely the wants, of each person or family.

JOIN deals daily with almost every problem imaginable, from birth to death. Client services include help for needy families expecting or welcoming new infant life; advice in fighting red tape for families who need a home or assistance with utility bills and rent; getting people back to work by supplying transportation to apply for or begin a new job; helping people find medical care; giving compassionate advice when a loved one dies and there is not enough money for burial; and many other forms of assistance.

When it is prudent, financial help is given to clients. This help is not an ongoing handout, but a gift in an emergency until the client is able to take responsibility again for obligations.

The agency’s director, Ruth Beckman, frequently reminds the JOIN family, “Never miss Christ when He comes to us.” JOIN’s works are examples of Pope Benedict XVI’s teaching that the church has a threefold responsibility: to proclaim the word of God, to celebrate the sacraments, and to exercise the ministry of charity.
The St. Francis Center serves as a Catholic presence in the southeastern part of the diocese. It assists impoverished families in meeting their most basic needs of food and clothing.

Its food pantry travels from the main center in McArthur to four remote corners of Vinton County, which is the smallest county in the state in terms of population and has an average income per resident that is among the lowest in Ohio.

It also is a clothing center for Vinton and surrounding counties. Donations of gently used clothing and other items are accepted from all over the diocese. Besides providing clothing, the center makes donated accessories and household items, ranging from lamps and picture frames to paper and pens, available to its clients. Many of these people have fallen on hard times because of layoffs or job losses, a death in the family, or other unexpected events.

Several families served by the center need its assistance on an ongoing basis. A limited retirement or disability fund often dictates that a family needs outside resources to fully care for it. Even when a family consistently has one or more working adults, common emergencies such as vehicle problems, higher-than-expected utility bills, or medical needs make additional help necessary.
St. Stephen’s Community House is a hub for advancing self-sufficiency in the community. It is committed to assisting residents in the Linden neighborhood in building community and individual well-being. It assists residents in maximizing their potential through programs and services such as employment, social development, community organization, education, and child care.

Founded in 1919, St. Stephen's Community House supports more than 30,000 indigent children and families annually through programs accredited by the Council on Accreditation. It provides life-sustaining services such as material assistance, family-strengthening programs, youth development and tutoring, senior services, and nationally accredited child care.

Framed with sound business principles, St. Stephen's Community House uses tactics that will ensure and sustain all five of its core programs and service areas. It mandates that all agency operations are aligned with the needs of the community.

For the past 93 years, from the womb to the tomb, St. Stephen’s Community House has continued to be consistent in brightening lives in Columbus and upholding a beam of hope for those in need.
Since 1875, St. Vincent Family Center has lived out its mission of making good kids better by providing pediatric behavioral health care within a learning community to change the lives of children and families.

Its programs include a kindergarten readiness academy for children ages 3 to 5; community-based treatment services to meet the social and emotional needs of children and families; therapeutic services for deaf children ages 5 to 18 years old throughout Ohio; early childhood mental health treatment for children from birth to age 6 who attend local day care centers; and a Hispanic/Latino program offering culturally appropriate treatment services in school, at home, or at the center.

The center also offers intensive home-based treatment services for anyone aged 3 to 18; outpatient services which provide family-centered counseling for children 4 to 18 and their caregivers; and a residential/respite program supplying 24-hour intensive, structured care for boys and girls aged 5½ to 13 who need long- or short-term residential care.

In addition, it has three therapeutic programs: preschool, providing a structured preschool environment to help children ages 3 to 6 years learn positive behaviors, social and problem-solving skills; school-age, providing structured classrooms for anyone ages 6 to 12 who is experiencing emotional and behavioral difficulties and has not succeeded in regular and special classrooms; and after-school, offering an intensive, structured program to help children ages 5½ to 12 identify, learn, and practice ways to effectively deal with behaviors and symptoms outside of the classroom.
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a 180-year-old international Catholic lay organization with a goal to lead men and women to grow spiritually by offering help to those in need.

Vincentian volunteers are working every day throughout the diocese to provide food (Vincentians operate a number of food pantries), rent assistance, utility assistance, bus passes, furniture, and virtually anything else that those whom they serve might need. In 2011, Vincentians helped more than 100,000 people within the diocese, regardless of religious affiliation.

The society’s diocesan council operates a daily sack lunch line called St. Lawrence Haven, located at Columbus Holy Cross Church, serving as many as 400 people each day. Vincentians also run a free clothing distribution center on East Main Street in a building that is shared with JOIN.

The society also has an advocacy arm known as Voice of the Poor, which provides education on poverty issues and advocates for the poor at all levels of government.

In the Diocese of Columbus, the society has 62 parish-based chapters with more than 1,500 members, as well as five youth chapters for students in Catholic junior high and high schools.