A Message From Father John

Happy 2020!

We welcome a new year after a joyful celebration of Christmas at Catholic Charities. (See highlights of our Christmas activities inside the newsletter.) The new year is already off to a great start with the mid-January graduation of participants in our Latinos in Finance-Bank Teller program. Congratulations to all the graduates, many of whom have secured jobs!

It’s at the start of a new year when many people make resolutions. In that spirit, we at Catholic Charities recommit to the mission that has guided our work for more than 90 years. As advocates for social justice, we resolve to:

• Serve those in need regardless of background, belief or circumstance;
• Do our best to say “Yes” when people come to us in need;
• Help those in need develop the skills and strength to move from crisis or isolation to stability and growth.

This mission is not possible without a foundation of support. I remain ever grateful to the donors and volunteers who help make our work a reality.

As this new year begins, please consider how you — in 2020 — can contribute to our mission of lifting up the poor and the vulnerable.

May God bless you and your family, as we continue to celebrate the wonder of God’s love for us through service to those in need.

Msgr. John J. Enzler
President and CEO
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

‘Celebrating the Sun that Shines on Us and the Son that Saves Us’

Catholic Charities’ solar array on our Gift of Peace property in Northeast Washington is nearly completed and will begin generating energy later this winter. Heeding the Holy Father’s call to care for the Earth, as outlined in the encyclical Laudato Si’, the array — the largest in the District — provides a unique opportunity to support one of the seven principles of social justice: care for God’s creation.

Working with partners at Catholic Energies, a project of Catholic Climate Covenant; IGS Solar; and Solar Energy Services, we broke ground on the project last summer and hosted a blessing ceremony with Archbishop Wilton Gregory and Mayor Muriel Bowser in October.

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As a mother of two young children, it’s important to me to teach my kids about giving back — just like my parents did for me. Not only do we discuss the topic of being “in need” or “less fortunate,” but we also provide our children with firsthand experience in service.

Each month, the Enzler Society tries to take participants in the Youth Transitional Program (YTP) into the DC community for various activities — mini golf, museum tours and baseball games, for example. On these outings, my son comes along to experience the activities and have the chance to meet and hang out with the YTP participants. He really enjoys these outings and loves being with the group.

Additionally, every few months, we go through our house and identify toys and clothing that can be donated to those less fortunate than us. I have the kids pick out what they want to donate, and, while we’re doing this, I speak to them about the situations in which families could benefit from our donations.

My family is beyond blessed to be in our situation, and I am grateful that my kids and I are able to give back through Catholic Charities. I look forward to introducing them to the other programs Catholic Charities offers like St. Maria’s Meals and Cup of Joe.

It’s my hope to make service a big part of their lives, and I know Catholic Charities can help make that possible.

83.33 Society Launches the Next Generations of Giving

We are excited to welcome the next generation of Catholic Charities donors through the new 83.33 Society.

Launched in the fall, this new giving society makes sustained charitable giving accessible to young professionals. Members can establish their legacies as emerging philanthropists by pledging as little as $83.33 a month, which equals $1,000 a year, over a five-year commitment.

By joining the Society, emerging philanthropists can have an immediate impact, as $83.33 a month ensures that people staying at our shelters receive breakfast each morning.

The 83.33 Society also offers the opportunity to connect young donors with established leaders in our donor community to collaborate on how to address important issues facing the region. Society members will be invited to networking events, as well as volunteer opportunities for them and their families.

Visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/8333society for more information.

April 4, 2020: Catholic Charities Spring Gala

Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009

Join us for the annual Catholic Charities Gala. Celebrating “Our Community. Our Commitment. Our Legacy.” Honoring our long-time patrons and welcoming emerging philanthropists and young professionals to Catholic Charities DC.

For information on sponsorship, contact events@cc-dc.org. To register, visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/gala.
Megan Audet and her fiancé, Chris Grassano, are contributing their professional skills and expertise to empower those in need.

Megan and Chris, 26-year-old CPAs originally from Pennsylvania, have served as volunteers with Catholic Charities for more than a year. They are two of the young professionals who make up a new generation of contributors to the agency.

Initially drawn to the agency’s overall mission, they found a more intimate connection after learning about our Financial Stability Network (FSN), which provides financial education and coaching to those in need.

“With over 10% of the D.C. population unbanked,” Chris noted, “each individual who creates a bank account and understands the benefits of using a checking and savings account is a true success story for me.”

During their time as volunteer coaches, they were invited to be instructors for a pilot program teaching financial literacy to inmates at the Prince George’s County Community Release Center. The program was developed by FSN to supplement the work of the Welcome Home Re-Entry program.

For five weeks, Megan and Chris covered a range of personal finance topics, including budgeting, banking services, savings, and credit cards. They also tailored their lessons around their students’ personal situations and taught them important information like how to open a bank account as someone with a criminal record.

“Megan and Chris have done a wonderful job teaching a life skill — financial literacy — to a community in serious need of understanding personal finance,” said Deacon Jim Shanahan, who directs the FSN. “Megan and Chris were very effective in explaining budgeting, credit scores, debt management, banking and tax planning to individuals about to re-enter the working world.”

Participants had the opportunity to ask specific questions about issues they would face when they transitioned out of the criminal justice system. Megan and Chris were pleasantly surprised to hear that many of their students hoped to open businesses upon their release. While this wasn’t their area of expertise, they felt the topic was important enough to research and to provide them with resources.

“I loved getting questions that neither Megan nor I knew the answer to, researching them after class, and then following up the next week,” Chris said. “Not only did it help expand our knowledge, but it also provided us with more knowledge about what each of the students commonly face financially.”

To learn more about how young professionals can volunteer, visit us online at catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer.
Agency Celebrates Hope Corps Members

In December, we recognized 15 volunteers for their service in 2019 as Hope Corps members. Hope Corps is a team of lead volunteers who, along with Catholic Charities’ staff, manages 20 volunteer projects a month, engaging 2,500 people in community service such as serving meals, packing food, playing board games with clients and cleaning up at shelters.

Father John Community Leader of the Year

In November, President and CEO Msgr. John J. Enzler was honored with the Community Leader of the Year award by the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County. He received the award for his impact on the lives of people in the community, acts of charitable giving and commitment to Catholic education.

Coats Keep Neighbors Warm

Winter outerwear gathered at Coats of Many Colors Drive collection locations at three parishes was distributed in late November at St. Francis Xavier Church. Volunteers, including some Bowie State University students, organized and handed out coats to those in need. Outerwear in good condition is being collected through January, with additional distributions on Jan. 25 at St. Francis Xavier Church and Jan. 28 at the Kennedy School.

1,000 Receive Dental Care

Almost 1,000 underserved people received more than $1 million in critical dental care at the Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy Sept. 13 and 14 at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center. Catholic Charities partnered with the University of Maryland School of Public Health’s Center for Health Equity and the Maryland State Dental Association to host the event, with the support of flagship sponsors Cigna and Kaiser Permanente and 10 additional sponsors. Licensed dentists, hygienists and dental assistants provided state-of-the-art dental services, including cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals and oral hygiene to those who might otherwise go without. An estimated 1,200 volunteers ensured the success of the extensive dental health event. Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini, director of dental services at Catholic Charities, and Sister Romana Uzodimma of the Catholic Charities Health Care Network were among those helping. Both noted the importance of oral health and its tie to overall well-being.

April 24, 2020: Legal Network Tennis Tournament

Congressional Country Club
8500 River Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817

Watch for details on the spring tennis event benefitting Catholic Charities Legal Network.

For information on all Catholic Charities’ events, visit the calendar on catholiccharitiesdc.org.
Father John Speaks out on Homelessness

President and CEO Msgr. John J. Enzler joined other community leaders at a December vigil to mourn the homeless who died in 2019. “We come together to think about how we can make a difference,” Father John said. “We can do better.” The event at Luther Place Memorial Church was organized by the People for Fairness Coalition, which reported that 81 people without homes died in Washington, D.C., in 2019. “81 is unacceptable,” Father John said. Catholic Charities provides almost 1,500 beds to the homeless each night. In his remarks, Father noted the connection between homelessness and health issues. With a philosophy of integrated care, Catholic Charities programs offer access to important health and wellness services to homeless residents.

Partnership Recognizes Power of Sports

Catholic Charities partnered with the Georgetown University Hoyas to co-sponsor the Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference, which examined the power of sports to create positive change. In teaming up with the university, Catholic Charities received tickets to a November Georgetown-Mount St. Mary’s basketball game for donors and volunteers. The partnership continues through this academic year with volunteer opportunities being offered to university athletes.

‘Celebrating the sun’ continued from page 1

“We are proud to be one of the first to implement the pope’s strong moral teaching and excited to be part of an effort throughout the church to be more conscious of our stewardship of God’s multiple blessings,” Msgr. John Enzler said. “I’m particularly proud that Catholic Charities is taking a proactive step in making solar a part of our commitment to responding to the environmental needs of our society, not just for today, but for generations to come.”

The array features more than 5,000 of the highest quality panels and sits on a five-acre lot. When fully operational, the project will produce 2.7 million kilowatt-hours a year — enough energy to power nearly 700 homes. Incredibly, it will account for an estimated 2.5 percent, or one-fortieth, of all the renewable energy produced in Washington. The array will offset nearly 100 percent of Catholic Charities’ conventional electricity, allowing us to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs each year. These savings will be redirected to support our programs throughout the D.C. area. To ensure the array benefits as many people in need as possible, any surplus energy will be donated to Solar for All, a program that provides energy to low-income residents.

“It’s not simply political, social or economic action we’re taking,” said Archbishop Gregory in his blessing. “We’re praising God today in prayer... for the gift of the sun that shines on us, and more importantly, the Son that saves us.”

As an added benefit, the project will include a pollinator field with more than 650,000 flowering plants. The field, which is expected to be in full bloom in the spring, will not only provide aesthetic beauty to the project, but it will be a flourishing habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating species.

The site will also feature about 100 newly planted native, evergreen, and deciduous trees along the perimeter.

“The pope has been very direct in telling us what to do,” said Mayor Bowser. “The pope has been clear to us to focus on three keywords: honesty, courage, and responsibility. I think all of those things are embodied in this project.”

The project has already become a model for churches, generating inquiries from dioceses across the country that are considering emulating our efforts to create a sustainable path forward for their communities.

“We at Catholic Charities have been stewards of this community for 90 years,” said Father John. “And now we want to be stewards of the environment so that we can continue to serve those in need for the next 90.”
**Christmas at Catholic Charities: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

**The Giving Tree**
More than 950 children served by our programs received Christmas gifts through the Angel Tree program, a Catholic Charities' tradition that spreads holiday cheer and ensures children in need have a merry Christmas.

87 “angels” and 10 organizations, including members of Catholic Charities’ President’s Council, adopted children in 465 families for holiday giving.

The gifts arrived in the hands of children thanks to the work of 50 “elves” who accepted, organized and distributed the gifts over several days. One family went beyond organizing by donating $1,000 to ensure that no child went without gifts.

Among the other volunteers were members of the Harmon family, who packaged donated books for children. “It is important to my husband and me to instill a sense of service in our children,” Michelle Harmon said. “The memories families make when they serve together are gifts that last a lifetime. We are thankful that we had the opportunity to take part in the Angel Tree project.”

**Surprising Guest at Kennedy School**
1 jolly old elf dressed in red surprised students at the Kennedy Institute, when he visited during an afternoon of treats, caroling, and gift-giving. Members of the D.C. chapter of the International Furnishings and Design Association created a celebratory scene for the annual Christmas Party.

**Distributing Gifts at Spanish Catholic Center**
About 500 additional children received gifts thanks to the Spanish Catholic Center’s annual gift drive. Almost 200 people donated gifts, which covered the gym floor at the Sacred Heart School on distribution day. Volunteers included employees from the Inter-American Development Bank, who handed out presents and provided treats to families picking up gifts.

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**Good Samaritan Society Brunch**
Watch for details on the annual Good Samaritan Society brunch hosted by Msgr. John Enzler. Good Samaritan Society members have generously included a gift for Catholic Charities in their estate plans.

For information on all Catholic Charities’ events, visit the calendar on catholiccharitiesdc.org.
**Being of Service at Shelters**

1 large group of volunteers from the Jewish Community Center provided and served Christmas dinner for residents at 5 shelters. Residents staying at 8 shelters enjoyed 4 nights of Christmas caroling by volunteers including students from St. John’s College High School, one of 17 high schools participating in service activities during the holidays.

**Decking the Halls**

9 volunteer groups took the time to decorate 9 program locations for Christmas. Those who graciously volunteered to deck the halls were groups representing Connelly School of the Holy Child, Elizabeth Seton High School, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Jesuit Volunteer Corp alumni, Dirty Hands LLC, Archdiocese of Washington Youth Leadership Team, U.S. Senate Federal Credit Union and Blue Knights of Columbus, along with Frank Sandor and Judi Kotula. The Christmas spirit was in full display at our downtown office, where 14 rooms were decorated by volunteers.

**Giving Thanks with Neighbors**

The homeless and hungry celebrated Thanksgiving with a festive, full-service dinner on Nov. 26 at Pepco Edison Place Gallery, as we partnered with Pepco for the sixth year to serve our hungry neighbors. More than 400 meals were served with the help of 55 volunteers, many of whom volunteered as families.

**Enjoying a Christmas Dinner**

Volunteers served more than 250 meals to neighbors in need at the annual Christmas dinner, held on Dec. 18 at our festively decorated downtown office. Carolers and a music ensemble entertained guests as they ate a warm, nutritious meal prepared by Catholic Charities Enterprises. Dozens of volunteers hosted guests and spread holiday cheer.

**We Want to Hear from You**

The contributions of donors and volunteers help ensure that Catholic Charities DC meets its mission of strengthening the lives of people in need.

We are eager to hear from you — our supporters — and often include you in our catholiccharitiesdc.org blog, social media posts, and other communications.

Are you a supporter who valued your volunteer experience? Send us an email at communications@cc-dc.org, telling us what motivated you to volunteer with Catholic Charities DC and what you valued from the experience.
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Through a Virtual Food Drive

Combatting food insecurity and feeding their hungry neighbors became a priority for many D.C. and Maryland residents this fall, as Catholic Charities’ Virtual Food Drive drew a large number of first-time supporters to the agency’s food programs.

Beginning on Nov. 17, World Day of the Poor, and continuing through the end of 2019, we appealed to the D.C. community to consider the toll that hunger takes on individuals — and the community — and answer the call for help. The community responded.

The 2019 food drive raised more money than the previous year, and the average gift of more than $200 was significant. Almost 30 percent of donors were first-time contributors to the agency.

Catholic Charities, which has been on the forefront in the fight against hunger in the Washington region, is grateful for the support from all who contributed to the campaign. With cuts to SNAP benefits and changes to participant eligibility, it’s more important than ever to keep sources of food open and accessible to those most in need.

Donations to the Virtual Food Drive allow Catholic Charities to continue this important work. Donations were directed to the greatest need, but donors also were able to earmark their support for one of four initiatives:

• Southern Maryland Food Bank,
• Welcome Home Re-entry Program via the SHARE Food Network,
• Bike Brigade of St. Maria’s Meals,
• Cup of Joe snack packs for students in English as an Other Language programs.

The Prison Policy Initiative estimates that the District of Columbia has the highest incarceration rate in the world. “Food assistance is one way we can help the formerly incarcerated overcome obstacles on their path to becoming positive and productive members of the community,” said Karen McNeal, senior manager of the Welcome Home Re-entry Program.

Although the Virtual Food Drive has ended, you can donate to our food assistance programs throughout the year at CatholicCharitiesDC.org.

Institutional Giving: Partners Invest in Our Programs

Association of American Medical Colleges

Catholic Charities is pleased to be a recipient of the Association of American Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) FY2020 Community Grant. This generous funding will help provide free vaccines to adult patients at our DC Medical Clinic. This includes the shingles, pneumococcal, and diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccines. AAMC’s Community Grant award will help meet critical immunization needs among our vulnerable adult patient population. Funding for free vaccines will lessen the need for our DC Medical Clinic staff to refer patients seeking vaccines to pharmacies, where costs are often prohibitive for low-income individuals.

DC Immigrant Justice Legal Services

Funded through the D.C. Mayor’s Office, the Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant provides generous support to Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Services program. For the past 33 years, Immigration Legal Services has addressed our region’s evolving immigration legal needs through high-quality, reduced-cost, and pro bono legal assistance and education. Foreign-born individuals and their families receive direct legal advice and representation in a range of immigration legal services, and Immigration Legal Services staff has represented individuals from more than 135 countries who need assistance with an immigration matter in D.C. The program also conducts trainings and mentoring sessions, which train private lawyers to provide pro bono services. We also educate the community about the latest immigration issues.

D.C. Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants

Also funded through the D.C. Mayor’s Office, the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants is partnering with Catholic Charities DC to provide critical support, which allows us to serve a greater number of people in Washington, D.C.’s Wards 7 and 8 communities. Launched in 2013, Catholic Charities’ Welcome Home Re-entry Program assists men and women in successfully reacclimating to their home communities after incarceration by providing supportive case-management services and matching clients with trained volunteer mentors. This new support from the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants will also allow Welcome Home Re-entry Program staff to engage in trauma-informed care practices trainings that will enhance their case-management skills in providing appropriate supportive services to each participant.
Circle of Hope

More than 75 members of the Circle of Hope Society gathered on Jan. 6 for an evening of fellowship and recognition. Hosted by Diane and William Shaw, the reception was held on the Epiphany. “It is fitting that we gather today,” Msgr. John Enzler told attendees. “The Circle of Hope is a particularly special community because of your commitment to lifting up those in need.” In recognition of the day, attendees received a gift of a scented candle and matches, symbolic of the gifts of the Magi.

Archbishop Reception

Members of the Founders Circle enjoyed time with Archbishop Wilton Gregory at his Dec. 12 Christmas reception, continuing to welcome him into the Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Charities family.

A Holiday Giving Tradition

As part of an office tradition, staff from Obsidian Global, a technology company, cleared the aisles of Tj Maxx to buy supplies and gifts for mothers and children in the Sanctuaries for Life and Southern Maryland Food Bank Snack Sak programs. Through this annual shopping trip, Obsidian employees ensure mothers and more than 200 children not only receive necessities, but also unexpected gifts that bring them true joy at the holidays.

Cup of Joe at Leisure World

Residents of Leisure World of Maryland were busy at work on Oct. 31, packing Cup of Joe breakfast bags for distribution at the Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter. More than 400 breakfast bags were created with the support of the group when it gathered at Our Lady of Grace Church in Silver Spring. A second Cup of Joe activity was held in November, and the retirees have pledged to do Cup of Joe activities monthly.
**FRESH START FOR COMPASS MEMBER**
The Washington alumnae of St. Mary’s College of Notre Dame, Ind., gave a Compass program member gifts to make a fresh start in the new year. A monetary gift plus an additional gift were presented to Loretta on behalf of the alumnae by Beth Veihmeyer. The St. Mary’s College alumnae group, which also contributes to other Catholic Charities’ programs and participants, focuses on supporting “women who work hard and try to be the person God wants them to be,” Veihmeyer said. The gifts will allow Loretta, a mother of three, to reach one of her goals – to become more organized in 2020. Compass, which works in Wards 7 and 8 of D.C., supports individuals and families to help them achieve their goals as they navigate from scarcity to resiliency.

**AN AFTERNOON TOGETHER**
Seven supporters celebrated friendship and a shared commitment to Catholic Charities on Mary Noel and Bill Page’s “The Noel” on the Chesapeake Bay in early October. They were joined by Msgr. John Enzler; Robert and Rita Reaves; Bob and Anne Easby-Smith; and Sandy McMurtrie.

**IN THE NAME OF THE MOTHER TOURNAMENT**
More than 100 golfers competed in the 14th annual In the Name of the Mother golf tournament on Sept. 13 at Blue Mash Golf Course in Laytonsville, MD. After golfing, they were joined by family members and volunteers for dinner and a silent auction. The tournament, hosted by Kevin McConville and Kevin Carey, raised almost $50,000, which provides financial aid to mothers diagnosed with cancer.

**PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL GATHERING**
Anne and John Davis were among those attending the President’s Council Christmas Mass and reception hosted by Msgr. John Enzler on Dec. 5 at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase. Anne and Lynda Camalier chaired the council’s Angel Tree collection. The council adopted 100 families, providing hundreds of toys to children in need.

**‘FRIENDSGIVING’ CELEBRATION**
The Enzler Society hosted a Thanksgiving meal with members of the Youth Transitional Program (YTP) on Nov. 23. In addition to sharing a meal and friendship, Enzler Society members conducted a clothing drive with items donated to YTP participants.

To learn more about our annual giving societies, visit [catholiccharitiesdc.org/givingsocieties](http://catholiccharitiesdc.org/givingsocieties)
Dancing the Night Away at the Spanish Catholic Center Gala

More than 750 guests gathered at the Marriott Marquis in October to support the Spanish Catholic Center and celebrate its service to the community.

The evening featured remarks from Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Bishop Mario Dorsonville, and Msgr. John Enzler, along with much-enjoyed dinner and dancing.

The event raised more than $760,000, which aids the center in providing immigration legal, dental, medical and job-development services to immigrants, along with a food pantry. More than 12,000 people were served in the year leading up to the gala.

Over the years, immigrants who received assistance from the center have gone on to give back as donors and volunteers. Four such individuals — a successful restauranteur, a compassionate professor, a caring teacher, and a hard-working student — were featured in a video shown at the gala.
#ICYMI

Catholic Charities @CCADW

Tim Maloney and @JGL_Law hosted a reception honoring Leo E. Green, Jr., a new staff attorney for Catholic Charities’ Legal Network. Green encouraged Prince George’s County and #MD #lawyers to contribute to the Legal Network by taking a pro bono case #PGCounty #communityservice

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Catholic Charities
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

8,500 people asked for medical and dental help.

$28 million in pro bono services were provided.

1,500 beds provided to homeless each night.

Volunteer elves are busy today preparing Christmas packages for 800 children in Catholic Charities DC programs. Volunteering with the Angel Tree program gave her an appreciation for where the gifts are going, Ellen said. Hundreds of families donated toys and gifts and volunteered to ensure children in need have a merry Christmas. #WashingtonDC #Maryland #generosity #Volunteerism #Adonations #Peace #Communityservice #ChristmasSpirit

Catholic Charities @CCADW
.
@brucejohnson9: We keep hearing economy is great. What are you seeing?
@FrJohnEnzler: In parts of #DC, jobless rate is in the teens. A lot of people don’t have the ability to support themselves. For some, the economy is really good. For others, they’re falling behind #theGandA