



Dear Friend in Christ,

I love the Advent and Christmas season! The anticipation of Baby Jesus, the hope of what is to come, the spirit of giving, the prayers of the season, the excitement and joy within a child's eyes, I could go on and on... but what has resonated the most for me this Advent Season is the **Beauty of Gratitude.**

I recently came across a video on social media that has been circulating since last year. It was produced by a church in North Carolina where a man wakes up and realizes all that he has to be grateful for. Each item is wrapped as a gift. It is a quirky video that makes you smile, but you can't ignore the deeper message... Gratefulness for the everyday people and items that we may...sometimes... take for granted. If you want to check out the video, click [Here](#).

If you have ever had the opportunity to volunteer for one of the many ministries that make up Catholic Charities, you most likely have witnessed the Beauty of Gratitude. You know what I mean... it's that humbling gratitude that you see in a person's face or hear in their voice when they say thank-you, and you can tell it comes from the depth of their soul.

Within Catholic Charities, we hear these types of thank-you's when people realize they will have food on their table, or new clothes on their back. When a person has found shelter or is welcomed into our country after a long journey here. And more recently, it is the thank-you we hear when a family is able to shop for Christmas gifts so their children will experience the joy of opening new items on Christmas day.

But, I have a small confession... I am sometimes guilty of taking the thank-you's offered, along with my everyday blessings for granted. It is through the simple gratefulness of our neighbors who come to Catholic Charities in their time of need, that I am humbled to remember the Beauty of Gratitude.

For the December edition of the Catholic Charities - Social Concerns E-Newsletter, I wanted to focus on a couple ministries where just the simple giving of ourselves, whether through prayer, material goods or financially, involves a gratitude that can be life-changing for the receiver and perhaps the giver as well.

So, this Advent and Christmas Season, I want to say **THANK-YOU** to each one of you. Thank-you for the love, prayers and the giving of yourself that you do each day for your loved ones and for strangers. Thank you for not only loving your neighbor, but for being a good neighbor. Thank-you for your support to Catholic Charities and the ministries that make up Social Concerns. It is through the giving of yourselves that has made me come to see the incredible **Beauty of Gratitude**.

Have a Blessed Advent Season and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Theresa Chamblee*

Director of Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

**Keep Scrolling down to See More!!!**

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

## Featured Social Concerns Ministry



### **Give The Gift of Hope this Christmas Season**

A **Gift of Hope** represents an inspirational way for you to make a life-changing difference for families and communities around the world. Simply choose a gift that will help save, protect and transform the lives of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters—and then, choose a special card to personalize and let your loved one know you've given a Gift of Hope in their name.

Examples on how you can change someones life through your acts of



kindness and prayer...

\* **Give a Child an Education:** Our Projects improve access to education, teaching quality, parental involvement and school infrastructure.

\* **Give a Community Watering Station:** Provide fresh water to central locations.

\* **Give a Health Exam:** Routine health exams for children help monitor growth and development and provide vaccinations to prevent disease.

\* **Give Livestock** (cows, chickens, goats, rabbits, pigs): Livestock is often a family's most valuable asset, providing added stability should crops fail or disaster strike.

To learn more on how you can help change someones life through your Gift of Hope, visit [gifts.crs.org](https://gifts.crs.org)

## Catholic Charities & Catholic Relief Services Disaster Relief

During this holiday season, so many of our neighbors in the United States and in many countries around the world are still coping with the realities of their "New Normal".

You may wonder... "What do you mean by New Normal?"

One of the realities that so many face when they experience a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, flooding, a wild fire, or an earthquake, is the reality that their life will not be the same as it was before the disaster hit. They may have lost every material possession, or worse, a loved one. For so many who find themselves in this situation, it can take years to rebuild a semblance of what was.

One of the many services that Catholic Charities (domestically) and Catholic Relief Services (internationally) offers to those whose lives are forever changed is material, financial, and emotional counseling to survivors as they adjust to their "New Normal."

If you would like to financially assist those whose lives are forever changed,

please see the information below.



Catholic  
Charities  
USA®

## Hurricane & Wild Fire Relief

Your support helps people through the immediate aftermath and continues helping them as they work through the long process of recovery. 100% of funds raised are forwarded to Catholic Charities agencies that serve affected communities. Thank you.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can donate via online [HERE](#).

Or please mail you donation to:

Catholic Charities USA  
2050 Ballenger Ave., Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Memo Line: Hurricane Relief OR Wild Fire Relief

## Yemen Relief, & Indonesia Earthquake & Tsunami



**YEMEN RELIEF:** The poorest country in the Middle East is devastated by war, hunger and a cholera crisis. Now heavy fighting has broken out in Hodeida—one of the main ports of entry for humanitarian supplies —, displacing families and cutting off access to clean water.

Conflict and a lack of aid has triggered a humanitarian disaster, leaving 70 percent of the population in need of assistance and children facing acute malnutrition. Hunger is on the rise, and basic services like education, water, health and sanitation have deteriorated.

These conditions have triggered an unprecedented cholera outbreak in Yemen. As of February 2018, more than 1 million cholera cases were reported, and

9.6 million children are at risk.

When you donate to Yemen relief, CRS will assist with the humanitarian response in Yemen. In Hodeida, where fighting is heaviest, CRS local partners are providing critical food and living supplies to families.

Your gifts will provide medication and treatment, improvements to hygiene and sanitation, and lifesaving nutrition for children.

Learn more about how we as U.S. Catholics are aiding our Yemen brothers and sisters [HERE](#).

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**INDONESIA:** Catholic Relief Services and our local Catholic partners are continuing our response on Sulawesi in Indonesia, which was hit by an earthquake and tsunami that have devastated the northern part of the island, killing over 2,073 people and leaving at least 87,000 homeless.

Learn more about how we as U.S. Catholics are aiding our Indonesian brothers and sisters [HERE](#).

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

To support the relief effort in Yemen and Indonesia:

- \* Give online: [crs.org/help-indonesia](https://crs.org/help-indonesia)
- \* Give online: [support.crs.org/donate/yemen-crisis](https://support.crs.org/donate/yemen-crisis)
- \* Give by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS
- \* Give by check: Catholic Relief Services P.O. Box 17090  
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

## Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grants APPLICATION PROCESS NOW OPEN



## Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grant

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is **awarding 10 grants** to parishes, schools and faith-based organizations that are aiding in alleviating

**hunger and poverty within the Archdiocese. Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$1000. Examples would be soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters and mentoring programs for families or individuals in need.**

The Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grants are made possible through the generosity of those who participate in the **CRS -Faith in Action - Lenten Rice Bowl Program.**

When you give to CRS Rice Bowl, 75% of your donations support CRS' humanitarian relief programs in 110 countries worldwide, assisting over 136 Million people in 2017. The remaining 25% of your donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts here within the Archdioceses of Indianapolis as part of the MATTHEW 25: CRS RICE BOWL GRANT.

**Application Deadline: All Applications must be received via email or mail by February 4, 2019.**

**For More Information - Click [HERE](#)**

## FROM OUR FRIENDS



**Franciscan HEALTH**  
Indianapolis

**Franciscan Outpatient Behavioral Health**, a community partner with Catholic Charities - Indianapolis, is expanding services at their Franciscan Substance Use Disorder Clinic.

In addition to their current mental health substance use disorder services, Franciscan Health will be offering *medication assisted treatment* for individuals with opioid use disorder.

If you know of someone who is seeking treatment, please encourage them to attend one of the free, 45-minute orientations. If they decide they would like to participate in one of the many services offered at Franciscan Outpatient Behavioral Health, they can sign up for an assessment at that time. Assessments typically take 1-1.5 hours and are available the same week.

For More Information, Click [HERE](#).

## Office of Human Life and Dignity

### **January 21, 2019: Vigil For Life**

Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana invite you to a night of worship and prayer for the



dignity of every human person from conception to natural death especially for the unborn in solemn remembrance of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. There will be Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and a Eucharistic procession. Music and reflections will be led by Audrey Assad. Event will take place at 7pm at St. John the Evangelist: 126 W. Georgia Street Indianapolis, IN.

Event is free, donations will be accepted for the Offices of Human Life and Dignity, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and Family Life, Diocese of Lafayette-in- Indiana.

**RSVP for event [HERE](#)**

Questions about event, please email [Brie Anne Varick](mailto:Brie Anne Varick) or call 317-236-1543.

## January 22, 2019: Mass and March for Life on the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children



We are joining again with Dicoese of Lafayette in Indiana and Right to Life of Indianapolis for a day of prayerful witness in remembrance of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This will take place on January 22, 2019.

The Day Events:

11:00 AM Indoor Life Rally: Indiana Convention Center 100 S. Capitol Ave Indianapolis, IN

12:00 Mass at St. John the Evangelist with Archbishop Thompson and Bishop Doherty followed by a peaceful March to the Capital.

12:00 Right to Life of Indianapolis Memorial Service for the Unborn: Indiana Convention Center 100 S. Capitol Ave Indianapolis, IN

1:30pm March from Georgia Street to Soldiers and Sailors Monument to Capitol Building

2:00pm Rally at the South Steps of Indiana State House

Join us for all or part of the day's activities. For more information, please email [Brie Anne Varick](mailto:Brie Anne Varick) or call 317-236-1543.

## Advent Prayer

### Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the

events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church,  
and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression  
of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—  
spouses, parents, and children— share, as members of  
his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love.  
Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

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## Just So You Know....



The Parish Social Ministry Gathering video  
featuring Archbishop Charles C.  
Thompson on Catholic Social Teaching  
and Parish Social Ministry is **NOW**  
**AVAILABLE ONLINE.**

Watch the Video [HERE](#)

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### Parish Social Ministry (PSM) Resources **NOW** Available in Spanish

Several of our PSM resources are now available in Spanish. To see a listing of  
resources - Click [HERE](#).

## 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.



Love Your Neighbor



Catholic Charities - Social Concerns | Theresa Chamblee  
317-236-1404 | fax 317-261-3375 | Tchamblee@archindy.org [www.Archindy.org/socialconcerns](http://www.Archindy.org/socialconcerns)



Catholic Charities  
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.