



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

August 17, 2022

Dear Pastors and Parish Administrators,

I'm very excited to encourage you to engage in **Catholic Charities Awareness Month**, which is celebrated in our Diocese every September. It was back on September 27, 1933 – nearly 90 years ago – that this agency was established at the rectory of what is now St. Mary's Basilica in downtown Phoenix!

In my previous assignment as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of San Diego, I had the good fortune to see Catholic Charities in action and to serve with them in mission. I know the heart they have for the people they serve, and the passion they bring to this work. It was inspiring to be with them as they accompanied people on some very difficult journeys in their lives.

How exciting for me to be here in my new home now with such a highly respected and well-established agency that is serving vulnerable individuals and families in all corners of our diocese: from the Phoenix Metropolitan area to Northern communities like Flagstaff, Prescott, Cottonwood, and Bullhead City. The agency continues to grow and even has operations in the White Mountains and in Page.

I love that our Catholic Charities is carrying out some of the most important work of the Church today:

- Resettling refugees and giving welcome to immigrants
- Connecting foster children and infants with foster and adoptive families
- Providing shelter to those experiencing homelessness or abuse
- Developing beautiful, safe and affordable housing
- Working with veterans, victims of sex-trafficking, and other populations with special needs
- Supporting those experiencing substance abuse or re-entering society from jail or prison
- Educating and helping to form young children and teenagers


Catholic Charities works in the Spirit of the Good Samaritan and answers Jesus' call to his disciples: *to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, care for the sick, welcome the stranger, and minister to the imprisoned.* (cf. Mt 25: 35-40)

Paul Mulligan, President & CEO of Catholic Charities, will be sending you a letter with simple ways to participate in and resources you and your parish can use this September and beyond.

Whether you already enjoy a fruitful partnership with Catholic Charities, or this year's campaign is your first step, *I thank you in advance for your engagement with our very own Catholic human service agency.*

I am grateful for the role Catholic Charities plays in recognizing and affirming the dignity, value, and sanctity of every human being, and inspiring Catholics, other Christians and all people of good will to carry out Jesus' call to love and serve – and to discover Him within! – our community's most vulnerable.

Sincerely in the Lord,

+ 
+ John P. Dolan
Bishop of Phoenix

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING CHRIST

400 EAST MONROE STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2336 | 602-354-2000