

Where Miracles Happen Every Day.



4747 N. 7TH Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013

April 2019

Dear Pastor,

I write to you as the social service arm of the Catholic Church and as a provider of programs to unaccompanied minors, refugees and immigrants. As Church, we cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis impacting children and families newly arrived throughout our Diocese. As we celebrate the Easter Season, I am compelled to encourage you to share these opportunities for your church community to activate their faith. In the 40 days following the Resurrection Jesus instructed his followers to carry out His teachings. I am sure today He would want us to assist with those who have left their home countries to escape violence and poverty.

Our mission is "helping our community's most vulnerable..." and we can only achieve it with caring and committed leaders and parishioners, like you and your community. Over the years, we have seen surges in individuals, children and families seeking asylum in the U.S. We believe asylum-seekers are especially vulnerable, having suffered persecution in their home countries and further traumatized, for example, when over 3,000 children were separated from their families at the U.S. border last summer and going back many years, in fact. Evidence is not showing improved safety and access to basic needs in the foreseeable future. Until that happens, our mission and calling compel us to *welcome the stranger, the orphan and the widow*.

While Catholic Charities Community Services (CCCS) is not directly involved in the humanitarian aid efforts for families crossing the border, we collaborate with The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), The International Rescue Committee (IRC), Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS), and a network of faith-based organizations including, but not limited to:

- **Catholic Community Services Southern AZ** – 520-591-6390; **St. Vincent de Paul** – 602-850-6931; **Restoration Project** – 480-442-9634; **Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest** - 480-396-3795

The most urgent needs are:

- Churches to house and volunteers to provide hospitality
- Volunteers to help arrange travel for Asylum Seekers (travel is paid for by the Ayslees' sponsors)
- Donations (SVdP list attached) – socks, underwear, diapers, hygiene items, snacks, travel toys/games...

Catholic Charities is hosting a one-hour orientation in late April and early May to give your parish leadership an idea of what is needed to host/volunteer. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Dulce Hernandez Valdez, Parish and Community Engagement Supervisor at dhernandez@cc-az.org or 602.650.4832.

Contact me anytime at pmulligan@cc-az.org or 602-650-4835. "Together we can do great things!" - St. Mother Theresa.

Sincerely in Christ,

Paul S. Mulligan, MTS, MBA
President & CEO