




**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

# NEWS

Volume 5, Number 2

Catholic Charities - Serving Southwest Florida

Winter 2005-06

## Wilma, Katrina Create Needs

When Hurricane Wilma hit Collier, Lee, Glades and Hendry Counties on October 24, Catholic Charities (CC) immediately assessed needs. As this newsletter goes to press, relief sites are being set up at CC program locations.

In addition, following Hurricane Katrina, staff and volunteers from

*Wilma, Katrina on page 3*

## Bishop to be Honored at Sarasota Ball

Sarasota—The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Charities Ball, to be held on January 21, 2006, will honor Bishop John J. Nevins who will retire in



*Bishop to be Honored on page 4*

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Appeal Needs You to Help

The fourth annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal takes place during the month of December through January 2006.

This year's goal of \$145,000 is necessary to maintain services. On page 5 is a list of Catholic Charities program sites in southwest Florida. Please read pages 6-8 to learn more about services that these 31 programs provide in our ten-county area.

Our Catholic Charities mission states, "These activities shall ensure human dignity, enhance the quality of life for all persons, regardless of race, creed or color, and emulate the teachings of Jesus, who came to serve rather than be served."

*Appeal on page 6*



## Father Charles Sullivan, Venetian Charity Ball Honoree

Fort Myers – Reverend Charles K. Sullivan, pastor of Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, will be honored at the 2006 Venetian Charity Ball that benefits Catholic Charities of Lee County. The seventh annual Charity Ball will recognize Father Sullivan for his long-time support of Catholic Charities and his work with the less fortunate in Lee County.



Father Sullivan was born in Newton, Mass., and ordained in

1964 at St. Michael Monastery in Union City, New Jersey. After four years of preaching parish renewal and missions in the northeast, Father came to Florida. He founded St. Paul of the Cross Parish in North Palm Beach, where he was pastor from 1970-1982.

After serving as a pastor in several more parishes, Father Sullivan founded two parishes in Fort Myers—St. Columbkille

*Father Sullivan on page 2*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Anne Miller

*North Port*—Imagine arriving in the United States ready to make a new life but not speaking English, or understanding how to open a bank account or get a job. Anne Miller of Venice understands and is doing something about it. She is greeting new immigrants to South Sarasota County her own way.

Miller, a former teacher from Ohio, volunteers for the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program by offering an Introductory Life Skills Workshop to clients who are new arrivals to the United States.

“I feel like I am the welcoming committee for my students to our country,” Miller said. “I am proud of America and want them to be a success here and to enjoy our great nation.” Her students typically have been in their new communities only a few weeks.

Trained for the South Sarasota County Literacy program, Miller worked with Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Director Nancy Rostowsky to develop the class for mostly Ukrainians resettling in North Port. Caseworker Lyuda Grebinnik



*Anne Miller*

speaks Ukrainian and translates for the class.

The workshop meets two mornings a month. The first session covers the topics of money, shopping tips, how to open a bank and charge accounts and the steps for locating employment. The second morning introduces the job interview process and responsibilities of a job. Students also learn how to use the phone system to get information, understand and ask for directions, and use maps and public transportation.

“Learning English is essential to

finding a good job and surviving in America,” said Miller. “After the introductory workshop is over, we stress the importance of taking an English as a Second Language class.”

At a recent workshop, Miller instructed six Ukrainian students how to read a map. The students practiced finding Publix, the post office and their church in North Port. “Don’t get discouraged,” Miller said. “I know maps are difficult. When I came to Venice two years ago from Ohio I had a hard time finding my way around too, and I speak English.”

“Many of my students are young parents and I want to help them to be good teachers to their children,” Miller said. “They are embarking on a new adventure here and they need a little support along the way.”

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Refugee Resettlement Program can call 941-492-4855.

**See  
“Upcoming Events”  
on page 5 for  
four fun fundraisers!**

### *Father Sullivan from page 1*

where he was pastor from 1993-2002 and Blessed Pope John XXIII, the newest Catholic parish in Lee County, where he is currently pastor. The new church was dedicated in April on Palomino Lane in south Fort Myers. The parish motto is “All are welcome.”

Throughout his career as a pastor, Father Sullivan has worked extensively with local sheriff departments by serving as

chaplain and riding with sheriffs on patrol in the evenings. Also, his community involvement includes serving on boards and assisting in fundraising for various health-related organizations.

“As Christ loved everyone, so we are to imitate that same love,” said Father Sullivan.

His commitment to service for others in our Lee County community provides an excellent example of sharing time and talents.

In addition to riding in sheriff cars in the evenings, Father enjoys walking his golden retriever, Brutus. His other hobbies include reading good books and watching New England Patriots football.

Father Sullivan will be honored at the Venetian Charity Ball on Saturday, February 4, 2006, at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa. Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased by calling 239-489-3790.

*Wilma, Katrina from page 1*

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice (DOV) traveled to Biloxi, Miss., on September 5 to assist those in need. The seven diocesan Catholic Charities agencies of Florida officially adopted the Diocese of Biloxi to provide technical assistance and staffing of relief centers there.

Within two and a half weeks, Peter Routsis-Arroyo, president of Catholic Charities, DOV, and the Florida team established 20 sites throughout the Mississippi coastal region. Initial estimates are that 5,000 people a day were served at those centers.

“The majority of the sites are Catholic parishes, many of which are severely damaged but were willing to do what they could to operate as a relief center,” said Routsis-Arroyo.

Many volunteers from parishes throughout our diocese and Catholic Charities staff have worked in the Biloxi area.

Because most people cannot do hands-on recovery work, the help given is through monetary donations. On September 20 at an all-school assembly, student representatives of Cardinal Mooney High School presented

Catholic Charities with a check for over \$40,000 to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. At the time of the assembly, four students attending Cardinal Mooney were evacuees from New Orleans.

Principal Steve Christie began the assembly and said to the student body, “You set a goal of raising \$11,000. What a credit you are to your family, friends and our country!”

In thanking the students, Nancy Shoemaker, Catholic Charities district director in Sarasota, said, “Our community needs to know how great teenagers can be. Catholic Charities can’t do the work without supporters like you.”

Shoemaker introduced Routsis-Arroyo, who explained his work in Mississippi and how his team set up 20 relief centers. He followed these remarks with an example of a trauma that a family suffered.

According to Routsis-Arroyo, a man in the Biloxi area lived with his wife and sister. When the hurricane hit, a storm surge of water came into their home. They moved to the highest point in the house, and



*(L to R) Cardinal Mooney High School student representatives: Kathryn Rivera, 12th grade; Kaitlyn Hennessy, 11th grade; Margaret Leibold, 11th grade; Brenden Nowak, 9th grade.*

he held onto a roof truss. However, as the water rushed in, he could only hold onto either his wife or sister. He chose his wife and his sister washed away with the surge.

“These are the stories that we heard every day,” Routsis-Arroyo said. The students were totally silent during the story, and many teachers cried.

More than 100 families who fled from their homes during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have come to southwest Florida. Along with Hurricane Wilma victims, many people require support and assistance for a variety of needs.

*Wilma, Katrina on page 4*

**MASS CARDS**  
Send a free sample of the new Mass cards from the Guild.

**WILLS WORKSHEETS**  
Send a set of wills worksheets, for those without a will or updating one.

**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**  
Please send me information on charitable gift annuities for the Catholic Charities Foundation.

**The Good Samaritan Guild - Making A Difference**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_



**MAIL TO: Catholic Charities Foundation  
P.O. Box 2116, Venice, FL 34284-2116**



*Wilma, Katrina from page 3*

“We are working closely with Catholic Charities USA and other relief organizations in identifying families and individuals in need of help,” said Routsis-Arroyo.

To volunteer in the Diocese of Biloxi, contact Sheri Cox at scox@southernccj. To assist with needs resulting from Hurricane Wilma, contact Silvia Suarez, Catholic Charities, DOV, at 941-488-5581.



*Hurricane Katrina destruction in Biloxi, Miss.*

*Bishop to be Honored from page 1*

2007. The event, formerly known as the Bishop’s Charity Ball, will highlight the Bishop’s lifetime of service to the needy in the community.

“My parents taught me at a very young age to give to others in need until it hurts,” said Bishop Nevins. “They also taught me that God gives back in many ways and more generously.”

According to Bishop Nevins, founder and leader of the Diocese

of Venice, the definition of being a Catholic is to be conscious of the needs of the people around you. This state of mind has defined his career as a priest and a bishop, and is the reason he will be honored for his service to the needy at the ball.

The ball on Saturday, January 21, 2006, will be at the Hyatt Hotel of Sarasota. Cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner, dancing, casino entertainment and a live auction. Back by popular demand, music

will be performed by the Tony DiBianca Band. Tickets are \$175 per person.

All proceeds from the event will support the Financial Assistance Program and other needy programs of Catholic Charities in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Volunteers and sponsors are needed to make the ball a success. Anyone interested in supporting the Catholic Charities Ball or to purchase tickets to the event, please contact Catholic Charities of Sarasota County at 941-379-5119.



## Wish List

*Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.*

### **Central Office - Venice –**

Call Silvia at (941) 488-5581.

- portable generators, 3000 watts
- small plastic gas cans

### **Arcadia –**

Call Sister Ann at (863) 494-1068, ext. 106.

- volunteers to repair & rebuild hurricane-damaged homes
- toiletries, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant

### **Fort Myers –**

Call Chris at (239) 275-7788.

- 4- or 5-foot round table

- padded folding chairs

### **Immokalee –**

Call Julie at (239) 657-6242.

- blankets
- women volunteers to tutor conversational English (No Spanish required)

### **Naples –**

Call Loren at (239) 793-0059.

- volunteers & a volunteer coordinator
- non-perishable foods, diapers, food gift certificates

### **Sarasota –**

Call Nancy at (941) 379-5119.

- laptop computer (internet capable)
  - magazine subscriptions in Spanish & English versions for waiting area
- Call Liz at (941) 366-1395.
- fax machine, DVD or VCR player

### **Venice –**

Call Joyce (941) 485-6264.

- volunteers for babysitting
  - booster seats
- Call Lyuda at (941) 492-4855.
- working portable sewing machines
  - gift certificates - Publix & Wal-Mart



**Catholic Charities**

1000 Pinebrook Road  
 Venice, FL 34285  
 (941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

**Arcadia**

Catholic Charities-DeSoto County  
 & Immigration Services

**Bonita Springs**

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

**Bradenton**

Catholic Charities-Manatee County  
 Immigration & Housing Counseling

**Clewiston**

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

**Fort Myers**

District Office (Lee & Hendry Counties)  
 Clare House of Catholic Charities  
 Community Counseling Services  
 Haitian Center  
 Immigration & Refugee Services  
 of Catholic Charities  
 Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

**Immokalee**

Rural Services Office (DeSoto, Glades,  
 Highland, Hardee & Manatee Counties)  
 Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities

**LaBelle**

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

**Naples**

District Office (Collier County)  
 Elderly Outreach  
 Family Counseling Services  
 Family Resource Center  
 Refugee Related Services

**Port Charlotte**

Catholic Charities of Charlotte County  
 & Alzheimer's Program

**Sarasota**

District Office (Sarasota & Manatee Counties)  
 Bethesda House  
 Direct Assistance Services  
 Family Counseling Services  
 Refugees Employed & Productive (REAP)  
 St. Martha's Early Learning Center

**Venice**

Community Resource Coordinator Office  
 Joseph's Place  
 Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities  
 Refugee Resettlement Program

**Wauchula**

Administration of FEMA Funds



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

**President's Corner**



Each Christmas season I thank God for the opportunity to serve His people through Catholic Charities. My list of gratitude begins with the dedicated people who assist others in need—staff, volunteers, supporters and those who pray for our work.

Please join us as a supporter of Catholic Charities. A contribution to our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Appeal is a way for you to participate in our works of mercy.

The children, families and individuals we serve do not choose to be poor or in need. Some are born into poverty and do not know how to escape it. Others fall into poverty through a small crisis or a major calamity. Your support allows us to feed the hungry and care for those who seek our help.

I invite you to read this issue of our *Catholic Charities News*, so that you may gain a better understanding of Catholic Charities. Please visit our website at [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) if you need more information. Also, we invite your questions. Our address and phone number is at the top of this page on the left.

**Catholic Charities uses 92 cents of every dollar donated for direct services to those in need.** Your contribution is essential to maintain services in our ten-county region.

On pages 7-8 is a response slip for your convenience, and an envelope is enclosed. Please send whatever you can.

May Christ bless you this Christmas and throughout the New Year,

*Pete Routsis-Arroyo*

Peter Routsis-Arroyo  
 President/CEO

To see a listing of our Boards of Directors, visit our website at [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)

**Upcoming Events**

**December**

*Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.* Watch for our letter in your mail box.



**January**  
*Sarasota*

*17<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Charities Ball 2006.* Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Hyatt Hotel of Sarasota. For information & tickets call (941) 379-5119.

**February**  
*Fort Myers*

*7<sup>th</sup> Annual Venetian Charity Ball.* Saturday, February 4, 2006 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa benefiting Catholic Charities of Lee County. For information, tickets & reservations call Ada Trapanese at (239) 489-3790.

**March**  
*Arcadia*

*4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Boots & Bandannas."* Dinner-Dance for Catholic Charities of Desoto County. Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Mission Valley Country Club in Laurel (just north of Venice.) For information & tickets call Rose at Catholic Charities office (863) 494-1068.

**April**  
*Naples*

*"Cruise the Emerald Seas" at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Emerald Ball.* Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. For information & tickets call Madeline at Catholic Charities office (239) 455-2655.



*Appeal from page 1*

## Providing Help . . .

Catholic Charities has an overall goal of “Providing Help – Creating Hope” for families and individuals who seek assistance.

Here are brief descriptions of just a few of the many programs and services Catholic Charities provides those in need – through your help, prayers and support.



Laura Sikes, Catholic Charities USA

### Day Care

In downtown Sarasota, St. Martha’s Early Learning Center provides child care with developmental, educational and social components for toddlers and children to age four. Many of these parents each work two jobs in order to make their limited budget work.

### Counseling

Catholic Charities Counseling is available to all who need it. Mental health counseling services are offered in Fort Myers, Naples, Sarasota and Venice.

### Families & Children

In Fort Myers and Bonita Springs, Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities focuses upon the needs of children and families with after-school tutoring programs, English classes (ESOL), Families Advancing program, shoe vouchers, and an array of support programs.



Laura Sikes, Catholic Charities USA

### Expectant Mothers

Today in Lee County, we are helping young mothers and expectant mothers whose babies need clothing, diapers and other material needs. The Clare House program of Catholic Charities serves these struggling young families who are trying to make a better tomorrow for their toddlers and newborns.



*Appeal on page 7*

**YES, I will help Catholic Charities!**



I am pleased to enclose my tax-deductible gift of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ My check made out to Catholic Charities is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Required for credit card approval.)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Intentions of My Gift**

*In Honor of -* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of -* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please see reverse side.)

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

**Clip and mail to: Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 1805, Venice, FL 34284-1805**

*Appeal from page 6*

**... Creating Hope**

**Migrant Worker Families**

In the Arcadia area, there are migrant worker families who come to our Catholic Charities center in DeSoto County seeking the most basic of survival needs. We help by providing food from our small pantry, donated clothes for children and adults, and small amounts of direct assistance.

**Single Mothers**

A working single mother comes to our Family Resource Center in Naples for food and assistance with her utility bill. She and her children need your help in order to make ends meet this Christmas.



Laura Sikes, Catholic Charities USA

At Our Mother's House of

Catholic Charities in Venice, a single, homeless mother and her

baby seek shelter and services. Required classes in budgeting and parenting are part of how she learns to live independently.



Laura Sikes, Catholic Charities USA

**Elderly**

Right now, there is an elderly woman struggling to maintain her independence and stay out of a nursing home. She receives help to perform daily tasks from our Elderly Outreach program in Collier County.

**Alzheimer's Caregivers**

This summer the Alzheimer's Respite Program of Catholic Charities – Charlotte County re-opened in Punta Gorda after being blown away by Hurricane Charley. The program provides respite care and support services for client and caregivers.

**We ask for your help - because they can't.  
Please give generously.**



My gift to Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is to honor:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



Please send a special greeting in *my/our* name. (See reverse side.)

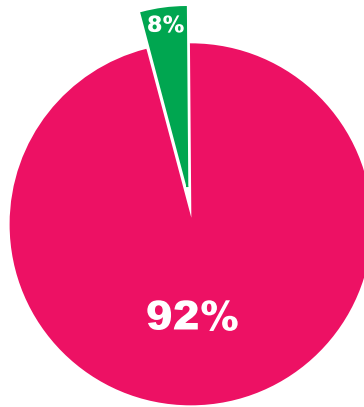
*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

*Annual Christmas Appeal*

**We Use Your  
Gifts Wisely**

At Catholic Charities, we put your gifts to work in the community. A full 92 cents of every dollar from the Christmas Appeal 2005 will be used to help those who need help the most.



Service to people in need 92%

Administration and fundraising 8%

**Emergency  
Financial  
Assistance**

**Food Pantry**

**Tutoring**

**Child Day Care**

**Mental Health  
Counseling**

**Shelter for  
Mothers & Infants**

**Catholic Charities serves all who seek help regardless of race, religion or national origin.**



Catholic Charities

*Diocese of Venice*

P.O. Box 1805

Venice, FL 34284-1805

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U.S. Postage  
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