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National Catholic Charities Sunday

Parish Coordinator Packet

September 25-26, 2010

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities USA

Honor Catholic Charities for its long standing efforts to provide help and create hope for millions of people in need each year.

Deepen your commitment to serve those most in need.





What is National Catholic Charities Sunday?

On September 25, 1910, scores of people who served the poor across the country converged on the campus of Catholic University of America to convene the first official gathering of Catholic Charities organizations. Spurred by decades of service to the most vulnerable, the gathering served as a uniting force for people doing the church's work of charity in the United States. One of the results of this gathering was to create Catholic Charities USA, a national membership organization to benefit the local agencies through networking and convening.

On September 25, 2010, Catholic Charities USA, now one of the largest associations of social service agencies in the country, will celebrate its Centennial anniversary. The Centennial provides a critical opportunity to highlight a proven track record of our agencies providing help and creating hope for people on the margins and to advance a vision for our country in which individuals and communities have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

In 2008, Catholic Charities agencies provided help and created hope for 8.5 million people regardless of their religious, social or economic backgrounds. In all, 171 diocesan main Catholic charities agencies, which included 1,668 branches and affiliates, provided an array of vital community based services nearly 14 million times. These services strengthened families, built strong communities, responded to natural disasters, and provided food, shelter and other basic needs.

When Catholic Charities USA celebrates 100 years, every Catholic can take pride in this accomplishment. Catholic Charities is a part of the Church, the body of Christ. Catholics can also take ownership in it. Furthermore, over the past 100 years, few partnerships have been as strong and fruitful as the one between Catholic Charities and parishes. Parishes have been on the frontlines of charitable works of mercy; Catholic Charities have reinforced their efforts through social service. As we pause to celebrate 100 years, we recall the impact of our partnership: bringing dignity and respect to all people, bringing glory to God through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.



Recognizing the potential and responsibility of this Centennial anniversary, Catholic Charities USA is once again calling all parishes to stand in solidarity with us in this moment of celebration and recommitment by hosting National Catholic Charities Sunday. National Catholic Charities Sunday is an opportunity to:

- Reflect on the call of the Gospel and the witness of Catholic Charities and all those who, inspired by the example of Jesus Christ, have helped others by offering prayers for them at Mass.
- Raise your voice in unison with Catholic Charities to reduce poverty, promote human dignity, and support families.
- Respond to the needs in your community by growing or strengthening your parish's efforts and partnership with your local Catholic Charities agency.

This packet will help a parish to coordinate a National Catholic Charities Sunday celebration and recommit to care for and stand with those on the margins with best practices. Let us make National Catholic Charities Sunday a celebration of faith in action and an opportunity to deepen our shared commitment to serve those most in need for the next 100 years.

Resources for National Catholic Charities Sunday

Prayers of the Faithful

On the Centennial Anniversary of Catholic Charities USA, we pray in gratitude for Catholic Charities' heroic commitment to care for the poor of our country for the last one hundred years and we pray that the spirit will renew and deepen their commitment to serve those most in need with the gifts and passion of staff, volunteers and benefactors for the next one hundred years. We pray to the Lord.

For us: that we will be inspired by the witness of Catholic Charities to celebrate the life and dignity of all people and bring God's love to a weary and worn world. We pray to the Lord.

For families in all their diversity: for those gathered together and those separated by distance or difficulty, for adoptive parents and for those who give the gift of adoption to others, for parents and siblings whose hearts ache for the loss of a family member, and for all who work to support family life. We pray to the Lord.



Parish Bulletin Announcements & Flyers

Bulletin Announcements

One Week before National Catholic Charities Sunday

On September 25, 2010, Catholic Charities USA, one of the largest associations of social service agencies in the country serving over 8 million people each year, will celebrate its Centennial anniversary. Catholic Charities will use this anniversary to promote a Catholic vision for our country – a vision in which all people will experience the love of God through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy through our agencies in partnership with the parishes and the wider community.

In honor of their service and in support of this vision, our parish is going to lift up Catholic Charities at our Sunday liturgy next week. We will pray for their ministry to bring the love of Christ to a weary world and to deepen their commitment to serve those most in need.

Week of National Catholic Charities Sunday

September 25, 2010 marks the 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities USA. This weekend, we will honor Catholic Charities and all people of good will who have cared for people living on the margins of our society. In 2008, Catholic Charities agencies provided help and created hope for more than 8.5 million people regardless of their religious, social or economic backgrounds. Catholic Charities efforts strengthened families, built strong communities, responded to natural disasters, and provided food, shelter and other basic needs.

Week after National Catholic Charities Sunday

Thank you to everyone for your support and engagement in National Catholic Charities Sunday.

Our parish has decided to carry the spirit of National Catholic Charities Sunday forward. We will do this by...

You can get involved by... (Committing to partner with your local Catholic Charities Agency)