

North Shore Pastoral Center to be blessed

Catholic Charities North Shore Pastoral Center will be blessed during a ceremony officiated by Archbishop Gregory Aymond in mid-February. While Catholic Charities has a number of ministries in St. Tammany and Washington Parishes, this is the first time the agency will have an administrative office housed on the North Shore. The new office, located at 69090 East Highway 190 Service Road in Covington, will serve as a central location for Catholic Charities programs, and can be used as a meeting space and a resource center for church parishes. Craig Marinello is director of the center.

Hispanic Apostolate Community Services, Immigration Services, Refugee & Anti-Trafficking Services move

Three programs of Catholic Charities Archdiocese focused on helping immigrants have changed service locations.

Hispanic Apostolate Community Services, Immigration Services, and Refugee and Anti-Trafficking Services have all moved to the campus of St. Lawrence the Martyr in Metairie.

These programs provide services like advocacy, emergency assistance, tax preparation, housing counseling, and assistance with citizenship, visas and more.



February 2012

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From the Catholic Charities Development Department

Happy New Year! I hope your 2012 is off to as great a start as ours is. As I write this column, the 2011 Archbishop's Community Appeal (ACA) campaign has raised **\$1,631,673** or **93%** of its **\$1.75M** goal. Wow—we're almost there! As you know, an aggressive campaign like this doesn't happen without a leader. And I'd like to thank **David Andignac**, our 2011 campaign chairman for his guidance, support and commitment to seeing this campaign through to a successful conclusion.

I'd also like to thank the ACA executive committee, volunteer leaders, and Catholic Charities staff for their faith, hard work and persistence in our efforts to meet the goal.

On January 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th, we hosted a phone bank to contact donors who had not yet made a gift to the campaign, as well as thank those who had already made their gift. During those four days, a total of **773** phone calls—a combination of solicitation and thank you calls—were made. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us: **David Andignac, Connie Andry, Luis Arocha, Kristin Callahan, Lois Cambre, Kristina Gibson, Mary Beth Green, Erica Halpern, JT Hannan, Susan Johnson, Edgar Lazaro, Shannon Murphy, Mark Spansel, Bill Steen, and Shelli Tarver**. Congratulations to **Lois Cambre** and **Erica Halpern** who each won a gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice—as part of our phone-a-thon raffle prizes.

A special thank you to our Catholic Charities Board of Directors, under **Susan Johnson's** leadership, for helping us achieve **100% Board** participation in annual giving for the 2011 campaign. It is so important for Catholic Charities to have the full support of its board, especially when we apply for public and private grant funding in the wider community.

Finally, a heartfelt congratulations from all of us at Catholic Charities to **Gayle and Tom Benson** for receiving the **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice** (for the church and the pope) **Award**. The award is given in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Benson's generosity to the Catholic Church, and is the highest papal honor that Catholic laypeople can receive. Catholic Charities has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of the Bensons' and the New Orleans Saints' generosity for many years, and we are delighted to see Mr. and Mrs. Benson honored in this special way.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our ministry. If we may be of assistance or service to you, please contact me personally at (504) 592-5688 or hsmith@ccano.org.

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Helene Read Smith

Never stop learning

On the surface, Jim Kilroy and Robert Melton couldn't seem more different. Jim spent years as an English professor and provost at Tulane University, while Robert worked as a longshoreman at the Port of New Orleans. But every Wednesday for the past two years, 76-year-old Jim meets with 81-year-old Robert at Incarnate Word Community Center: Jim is helping Robert learn to read.

Through Catholic Charities Education Services department, the men have a place to meet and curriculum to follow. And even at their ages, they both believe that learning is important. Jim has tutored at several nonprofits since retiring from university life, and Robert wants to be able to read even simple things like pieces of mail.

"I feel better doing it," said Robert. "He's a great teacher."

And when they're not working on the reading curriculum, Robert and Jim like to talk about sports, especially football. They also check on each other's health; whenever Robert has gone into the hospital, he makes sure to let Jim know.

"We take care of each other," Jim said.

"That's right," Robert agreed.



Jim and Robert work on a reading lesson at Incarnate Word Community Center.

Second Collection for Catholic Charities is February 11 & 12

On the weekend of February 11-12, church parishes across the Archdiocese of New Orleans will hold a second collection to support the work of Catholic Charities. This collection raises undesignated funds that enable Catholic Charities to serve the areas of greatest need within the community. Please give generously.

PREPARING FOR LENT

The forty days of Lent are a period during which Catholics prepare, through prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving, for the Holy Week commemoration of the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Deacon Steve Ferran, Vice President of Catholic Identity and Mission, provided the following prayer for our Lenten reflection:

Prayer for the Lenten Season

Lord, during this Lenten season, nourish me with Your word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above human weakness. Give me new life by Your sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your will. Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your kingdom.

I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Remembering our Haitian brothers and sisters

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was hit by the worst natural disaster ever to strike the impoverished island nation. The devastating earthquake caused catastrophic damage and loss of life. New Orleanians and the local Haitian community rushed to the aid of earthquake victims. The largest second collection ever in the Archdiocese of New Orleans raised nearly \$1 million for aid to Haiti and Catholic Charities also provided funds and send volunteers to Haiti to assist with recovery efforts.

Two years later, Haitians continue to struggle to rebuild. On January 12, 2012, a



Members of the local Haitian community pray for their brothers and sisters still recovering from the 2010 earthquake.

Mass was celebrated at St. Katharine Drexel Church to commemorate the second anniversary of the quake. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans and the local Haitian community organized the

mass of remembrance. Catholic Charities has also expanded its parish twinning program, which pairs Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Catholic parishes in Haiti. Six local parishes have been matched with Haitian church parishes to offer financial and spiritual support. More parishes will join the program soon.

Café Hope's *Bright Futures Festival*

Before you know it, spring festivals will begin in our area. Everyone has a favorite, whether it is Jazz Fest, French Quarter Fest or something smaller.

This year, Café Hope will kick off the festival season with its second-annual **Bright Futures Fest**. Held on March 3 on the grounds of the café in Marrero, Bright Futures Fest will feature a BBQ cook off, music by The Danny Alexander Blues Band, Mike Liuzza & Café Au Lait, and Lost Bayou Ramblers, activities for kids and much more!

Proceeds from the festival will benefit the program and students at Café Hope, as restaurant income only constitutes about 23% of the overall program budget.

For more information, call (504) 756-4673 or visit www.cafehope.org.

Café Hope
COOKING UP GREAT FOOD AND BRIGHT FUTURES
Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

ACCESS is "Proudly Pro-Life"

Catholic Charities ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Centers were recently recognized for their years of pro-life work at the Proudly Pro-Life dinner. ACCESS was founded 40 years ago, one year before the Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion in the United States. ACCESS provides free, confidential pregnancy tests and support for mothers with an unplanned pregnancy. Free on-site ultrasounds are also available. ACCESS is a certified Medicaid application center.



Longtime ACCESS volunteer Sharon Rodi and ACCESS staff member Kay Bongard celebrate the Proudly Pro-Life honor.