



## News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond  
*Archbishop of New Orleans*

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**Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans** provides life-giving programs that deliver health and human services to the most vulnerable and needy throughout 8 civil parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We serve people regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity or economic status.

## Catholic Charities Welcomes the Holy Year of Mercy

Dear friends of Catholic Charities,

In April of 2015, before his visit to the U.S., Pope Francis announced that December 8<sup>th</sup> would begin an extraordinary Jubilee, the Holy Year of Mercy. This Jubilee is a dedicated time on the Church calendar during which we place a special emphasis on our relationship with Christ and one another. The emphasis on Mercy, God's unconditional, loving care for humanity, asks us to recognize that we are all in need of God's mercy and, with humility, we must extend that compassion to others.



completely with the hungry, homeless, sick and imprisoned and reminds us, "What you do for the least of your brethren, you do for ME." The Holy Year of Mercy includes fulfillment of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, charitable actions benefiting those on the margins of society. It is only with your support that we are able to provide these life-giving services.



It is my hope that this Year of Mercy will be a season of renewal for our community and that it will inspire compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Catholic

We at Catholic Charities, in accord with others in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, are encouraging the community to *Try – Show – Live God's Mercy* during this Holy year and at all times throughout their lives. I encourage you to take this time to reflect on your acceptance of God's mercy in your own life; we all fall short of the glory of God and may have a difficult time accepting His forgiveness, forgiving ourselves, or extending that forgiveness to others.



It is only with your support that we are able to provide these life-giving services.



Charities will offer multiple opportunities throughout this Holy Year to become more involved with our efforts to provide for the poor. Thank you, again, for being a partner in ministry and supporting the organization referred to by Pope Francis as the, "engine of the Church that organizes love."

*Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.*  
Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.  
President/CEO

I want to thank you for supporting Catholic Charities in our mission to extend mercy to those in need in our community, regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity or economic status. We know Jesus identifies

**Did you know that, with your help, CCANO was able to help 76,305 people in the last fiscal year?**

# Save the Date to



Catholic Charities once again invites our schools to  
"Show Your Heart"  
for the poor and vulnerable  
in our community.

This year's "Show Your Heart" Day  
is scheduled for February 19.



# Isaiah 43: Peaceful Waves of Change

On Saturday, January 16, 2016, Isaiah 43 held their second annual Peacebuilders Brunch at Café Reconcile. The event brings the program’s participants from different schools and church parishes together, allowing to them to connect with each other and see the bigger picture of what Isaiah 43 is accomplishing as a program.

Isaiah 43 began in 2012 as a parenting and mentoring program with the goal of strengthening families in order to bring about change. Kristina Gibson, the program’s director, believes that Isaiah 43, now in its fifth year, has begun to evolve into much more than just mentoring. “It’s now more about how these children and parents can strive to be more active, connected, and peaceful participants within their community,” Gibson said. The program speaks to prevalent community issues such as violence and crime and the importance of the family unit in combatting these issues. Isaiah 43 is an engaging way to not only keep children out of trouble, but to also help them develop strong, peaceful leadership skills. The program also gives parents a platform to share their experiences and learn how to communicate openly and effectively with their children in order to create healthy relationships.



Just this past year, Isaiah 43 introduced the Young Peacemakers Leadership Council, a group of teens and young adults that has four main goals: to build leadership skills, to encourage peace, to promote advocacy and civic engagement, and to perform community service. The group had a successful first year, which included holding a peace summit in July and learning how to advocate for important issues in the community. They have also partnered with the Office of Justice and Peace and the Office of



Racial Harmony to hold peace prayer walks. “The prayer walks heed Pope Francis’ call to be out in the community, to step outside of the church and be engaged,” Gibson believes.



In the New Year, the program plans to focus on capacity building by partnering with schools and churches to serve even more children, parents, and families. By strengthening the family unit at its roots, Isaiah 43 hopes to promote peaceful leadership and positively affect the culture of violence that has become far too common in our community.

# The OneApp Head Start Application

Catholic Charities, Head Start, and EnrollNOLA are excited to announce our new application system for families applying to both Head Start and Early Head Start Programs!

The new OneApp process will make it easier for parents to apply to multiple Head Start programs across the city. In previous years, parents had to fill out individual applications for every Head Start center they were considering for their child. Starting this year with OneApp, however, they will fill out a single online application, which can be sent to up to 20 Head Start centers throughout New Orleans. “I believe the OneApp process will grant families the opportunity to access high-quality programs and ensure that their youngest learner receives the best education possible,” said Raynell Washington, the ERSEA Coordinator for the Archdiocese’s Head Start programs.

Parents who do not have internet access or need help filling out the online application can visit any of our Head Start sites to get assistance from our Family Resource Workers. Additionally, EnrollNOLA provides four convenient Family Resource Centers throughout the New Orleans area to offer assistance with the application process.

Look out for more exciting Head Start news in the coming months!



# THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

On March 13 of last year, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, the Holy Year of Mercy, to take place from December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



Traditionally, those seeking forgiveness during a Holy Year had to visit all four of the papal basilicas and walk through the opened holy doors. This Holy Year, however, Pope Francis announced that forgiveness is open to people around the globe if they simply attend Mass at a cathedral in their home city. Even the incarcerated can obtain the Indulgence in prison chapels, the Pope said, emphasizing that “no one can be excluded from God’s mercy.”

Stay tuned with Catholic Charities during this Holy Year of Mercy as we strive to personify



the Pope’s message and continue to advocate for the voiceless in our community. Join us on this journey of mercy and empowerment – we are excited for great things to come in 2016!

Image Source: FRANCO ORIGLIA/GETTY

## DID YOU KNOW?

Holy Years, also known as jubilees, date back to the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and are announced by the Pope every 25 - 50 years. The Holy Year of Mercy is an “extraordinary” jubilee because it was not planned well in advance and was announced only 15 years after the last jubilee.

## Article Sources:

<http://www.catholicicherald.co.uk/news/2015/09/01/full-text-pope-franciss-year-of-mercy-letter/>

<http://italyexplained.com/jubilee-year-2016-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-holy-year-of-mercy/>

<https://nrvn.net/86/article/pope-announces-year-of-mercy-in-2016-7309>

# Introducing the 2016 Board of Directors

We are excited to announce the addition of eight new members to the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans 2016 Board of Directors! This month we welcomed Jerry Bologna, Mason G. Couvillon, Karen S. DeBlieux, David J. Francis, Michael E. Nolan, Lawrence P. Oertling, Alex L. Suffrin, and Regina G. Templet to the Board of Directors.

Additionally, Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, D.C., Board Member Emeritus; Very Rev. Rodney P. Bourg, V.F.; Terrel J. Broussard; Anh “Joseph” Cao; Dr. Pierre, Detiege; John L. Eckholdt; Dr. Elizabeth H. Fonthan; Janice Martin Foster; James T. Hannan; Michael F. Hulefeld; John Hummel; Demetric M. Mercadel; Leon J. Reymond, Jr.; Brian J. Rotolo; Mark J. Spansel; and Lloyd A. Tate returned as members of the Board of Directors.



“I look forward to working closely with our new Board of Directors! I know that each one of them serves as the hands of Christ and will do outstanding work for Catholic Charities and for this community. We welcome the enthusiasm and commitment of each member of our CCANO Board!” said Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C., President and CEO.

Additionally, four returning members will hold leadership roles this year. Michael O. Read will serve as Chairman, Byron A. Adams, Jr. will serve as Vice-Chairman, Michael F. Hulefeld will serve as Secretary, and Lloyd A. Tate will serve as Treasurer.



Chairman Mike Read said, “It’s an honor to be able to lead such an amazing group of people. I’m confident that we’ll be able to use each of our diverse talents and backgrounds to serve Catholic Charities and the people they help in many different ways. I’m excited to get to work and see what this year has in store for us!”

On Friday, January 15, 2016, the new members of this year’s Board of Directors took a bus tour of some of our program sites. Members had the opportunity to tour Padua House, the Incarnate Word location of Head Start, the PACE Benson Center, and the ACCESS Mobile Unit. The tour served as an opportunity to see the sites, meet the employees who work there, and visit with people of all ages who utilize our various programs and services.

The 2016 Board of Directors is looking forward to another great year at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans!