

**News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese 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.

**Easter – A Time of Renewal and Rebirth**

Dear friends of Catholic Charities,

The Easter season, and with it the springtime, is a time of renewal and rebirth. It is God's gift of the virtue of hope that allows for this revival. After the death of her son, Mary held hope in her heart during the darkest hours of her life. From Friday afternoon until His resurrection Sunday morning, she stayed faithful. It is this hope that renewed everything.



When you support Catholic Charities, you are not only providing help to the most vulnerable of our community, but also creating hope. Keynote speaker at Catholic Charities USA's annual gathering, Dr. Shane Lopez, one of the world's leading researchers on the power of hope, defined hope during his presentation as, "belief that the future will be better than the present combined with belief that you have some power to make it so." Catholic Charities' mission not only includes providing life-giving programs as Jesus taught us to do but empowering the poor and vulnerable. The foster child learning skills to live independently receives needed

tangible goods as well as the confidence to make it through future obstacles. The mother and family utilizing Catholic Charities' Homeless Services are provided an immediate place to stay along with participation in the creation of a plan for future self-sufficiency. This gift of hope is just as important as the help provided. As Pope Francis said, those who possess the virtue of hope have the freedom and strength to see beyond bad times, hope allows us to "see the beauty of God."

As Catholic Charities ministers to those affected by the recent tornadoes, many of whom also suffered losses in the recent Hurricane Isaac, the spirit of hope is resoundingly clear. People who lost their homes and belongings repeatedly express gratitude for the assistance and thankfulness for the blessing of making it through the disaster unharmed. It is hope in the risen Lord that sustains a community in times like these and hope in each other, which you help provide through organizations such as Catholic Charities, that keeps us going.

I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Easter holiday.

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

**Notes from the Heart**

News from **Catholic Charities**  
Archdiocese of New Orleans

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**Zurich Classic Golf Tournament**

Tickets to this year's Zurich Classic golf tournament are on sale now! This year's tournament is April 25 – May 1, 2016, at TPC of Louisiana.

You have the opportunity to purchase single day tickets through Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans. Tickets cost \$25 each and can be used on any day of the tournament. The proceeds from each ticket will benefit both Catholic Charities and the Fore!Kids Foundation.

Since 1958, the Fore!Kids Foundation has raised money to fund children's service organizations, like Catholic Charities, through golf events like the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. A 501(c)(3) corporation, Fore!Kids has raised over \$28 million to date; providing healthcare, education, and hope for over 200,000 children each year.



The deadline to purchase your Zurich Classic tickets through Catholic Charities is Monday, April 4, 2016. If you are interested in buying tickets or have any questions, please call (504) 310-6865.



# Disaster Relief Response

We want to take this opportunity to update you on the response Catholic Charities (CCANO) has given to the tornados in LaPlace and the flooding on the North Shore. It is evident that many lives will be affected and we are committed to serving those made vulnerable by the situation. As a valued partner and funder, we hope you will take an interest in the developing situation in our area.

Since February 23rd, CCANO counselors have been meeting with evacuees in shelters to offer support and case management in hard-hit areas. Our team, along with Archbishop Gregory Aymond and CCANO leadership, has been on the ground coordinating responses at church parishes, working with the Emergency Operations Centers, providing crisis and pastoral counseling, and filling in as needed.



Catholic Charities is always called on in times of difficulty and has served the region since 1727. As needs in the community arise, we are able to offer a swift and effective response. We have a proven track record of assisting our community during troubled times.

We are uniquely positioned to provide and manage such funds based on our reputation, infrastructure, history managing such funds, and accreditation (as a major player in writing the Disaster Case Management standards for the Council on Accreditation, with whom we are accredited).

Over the next several months, we continue assisting 100 of the most vulnerable and needy families in LaPlace, along with the many whom, at time of print, will be severely impacted by the flooding on the North Shore.

To offer this crisis response, we need your help! Please continue to pray for all those lives that will be affected by these weather events. As well, please consider making a donation to support the long-term recovery work we will be called upon to do. Look for updates as our progress develops!



## In the Spotlight: Gary Carbo

This month, CCANO Crisis Counselor Gary Carbo is in the spotlight for his extraordinary life of service, showing us what it really means to put God and others above ourselves.

Carbo grew up in a New Orleans public housing project with four siblings, where they qualified for free lunch and tuition at the Marianite St. Mary of the Angels School. He spoke of the Marianites as his family, saying that they provided him with the "love, foundation, and ministry that he still draws from today." In 1967, Carbo joined the New Orleans Fire Department and worked there for 39 years. God called upon him to change his path in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when he found himself on a FEMA-run ship with a group of first responders, 90 percent of whom had lost their homes in the storm. In this intimate setting, Carbo provided comfort and hope to his fellow first responders, and found his calling as a crisis counselor.

In the five years following Katrina, Carbo worked as a crisis counselor under the combined efforts of the Fire Department and Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans. Even after the program was no longer funded with grant money, Carbo continued to volunteer as a counselor to provide support and hope to communities affected by the storm.

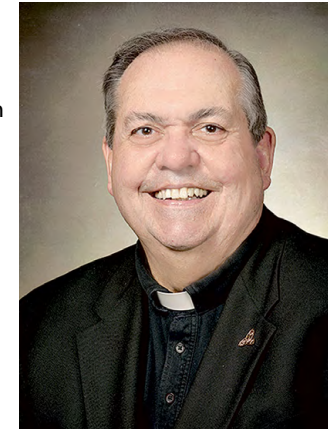
In 2010, Catholic Charities asked Carbo to bring his counseling services to the victims of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, this time as a team leader. These communities had just begun to recover from Katrina and were now affected by this disaster, he explained, and they had no means of income. Noticing high rates of substance abuse in the affected population, Carbo started a substance abuse support group. Looking back upon the populations that he has worked with, he said "an addict has the heaviest cross to bear. You have to gain the trust of an addicted person and show them that you have their best interests at heart. Most importantly, you have to show them that you have sincere compassion, concern, and love." In the years following the oil spill, even after federal funding for relief services ran out, Carbo continued to hold substance abuse support groups in the affected communities.

Today, Carbo volunteers with Health Guardians, providing counseling services to homeless veterans. Every Friday, Carbo holds a substance abuse support group for these veterans, guiding them with love through their recovery. The most difficult part of the job, according to Carbo, is the statistically low chances of sobriety among addicted populations. "A support group is like a family," he said, and relapses and overdoses are a difficult reality.

Despite the harsh realities that accompany his work, Carbo said that he has found happiness and peace in life. When asked about his favorite part of work, he brushed the question aside. "Sure, it makes me feel good when someone hasn't used," he said. "But the main thing is what *they* get out of what you do. You can't be in it for you." On the weekends, Carbo spends his time as an extraordinary minister at Mater Dolorosa Church, and delivers communion to homebound residents around New Orleans with his wife.

## In the Spotlight: Board Member Fr. Rodney Bourg

Very Reverend Rodney P. Bourg, V.F., is the pastor at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Covington and the Dean of the West St. Tammany-Washington Deanery, which includes seven churches and three missions. He is also the sole Northshore representation on the Catholic Charities Board of Directors. As such, he brings an important perspective to the Board which allows Catholic Charities to have a deeper understanding of the needs of those on the Northshore and to better serve those communities.



In 2009, Father Bourg and Craig Marinello, the Northshore's Regional Director, began tapping into an existing network of Northshore movers and shakers who were working with various organizations on a number of philanthropic endeavors. From this initial outreach, the Northshore Advisory Board, which is responsible for such initiatives as the Covington Food Bank, was born. Father Bourg continues to utilize this networking approach in his work as both pastor and dean. He uses a two-tier approach, involving both Catholic Charities and the Catholic Foundation, to access resources on the Northshore that will help pastors better serve their communities. The Northshore region currently assists the people of 17 Catholic Church parishes with health care, food services, mentoring, case management, and many other pressing needs.

Additionally, Father Bourg has been able to help the Northshore Pastoral Center blossom as a central location for organizations and social concerns groups without a meeting space of their own. The Center serves as a satellite location for a number of recovery groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and My House Men's Group. St. Vincent de Paul also hosts many of their meetings and events at the Pastoral Center. The Northshore Pastoral Center hosts counseling sessions, both group and individual, for which Father Bourg says there is always a great need on the Northshore. The center hosts bi-weekly job connections meetings, which has been essential in helping those residents who were greatly affected by the 2008 recession. Computers are available to use for job searches, among other things.

According to Father Bourg, the Northshore's greatest concern is the amount of homelessness they've discovered in recent years, especially among teenagers. He believes this issue previously went virtually unnoticed and consequently underserved because the Northshore's homeless weren't on the streets or in the public's sight. They were hopping from couch to couch and sleeping when and where they could, but were homeless nonetheless. The Northshore's teens are also experiencing a growing drug problem. In the future, Father Bourg is confident that he and Mr. Marinello can continue utilizing their ever-expanding network of connections to combat homelessness and drug-related issues and bring much-needed additional services to the people of Washington Parish.

As Holy Trinity and Father Bourg get ready to move to a new location, he hopes to be able to now regularly participate in a multi-parish program called Family Promise, through which Northshore parishes with the proper facilities house a family in need for a night. From Father Bourg's perspective, there are big things to come on the Northshore.

## ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center Jazz Brunch

ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center will host their annual Jazz Brunch and Auction on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the Audubon Tea Room. Co-hosted by Archbishop Gregory Aymond, proceeds from this event will support the Pro-Life Services of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans: ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center, St. Vincent Maternity Clinic, and Adoption Services.



For reservations, contact Michelle Black at (504) 885-1141 or email [mblack@ccano.org](mailto:mblack@ccano.org).



ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center provided pro-life pregnancy support services to more than 1,100 abortion-vulnerable women and their families in the New Orleans community last year. ACCESS also operates a diaper bank and distributed more than 2,200 packs of diapers last year to babies in need.

Proceeds from the upcoming Brunch, along with the generosity of private donors, allows Catholic Charities to continue our work in the community.



# PARISH APPEAL

**Thanks to those who donated to the Catholic Charities second collection!**

**We've already received over half of the parishes' collections!**