

“A life not lived for others is not a life.”

- *Mother Teresa*

Dear Friends,

Wow! I'm guessing that you'd agree with me that Mother Teresa is pulling no punches with the above quote. She certainly has a way with words!

She brings into sharp focus for you and me a key principle of our Christian faith. You and I are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mk 12: 28-34).

While you and I can't live our lives as Mother Teresa did in loving service to the “untouchables” on the streets of Calcutta, India, you and I are called to respond to the poor and marginalized in our own communities with compassion, kindness, respect, and service.

The call to serve others, springing from the faith that we share with you, animates all that we do at Catholic Charities. Through our seventeen programs, we serve children, families in crisis, vulnerable adults, seniors, refugees, the uninsured, the poor, the homeless, and the unborn.



I assure you, it is a joy and privilege to do this relevant, authentic, yet challenging work. And in that spirit of joy, I invite you to join us in accomplishing it. **I invite you to join Catholic Charities' Spirit Circle.**

Spirit Circle members make a gift of \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,000 or more as part of the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal. (Please stay with me here. It's more affordable than you might think.)

The Spirit Circle's goal is to generate a “down payment” on the 28% of our operating budget that comes from our loyal donors. Spirit Circle members are the leadership donors that commit to making that down payment. They are passionate about investing in the lives of those on the margins throughout southern Minnesota.

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When you join the Spirit Circle you are a sign of:

- **Faith** that affirms all lives have dignity, especially the poor and marginalized. In 2017 we served over 6,400 persons residing in over 3,900 households, 60% of which had annual incomes at or below \$25,000.
- **Hope** that cares for the needy throughout southern Minnesota with great competence and compassion. With offices in Worthington, Mankato, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Austin, Rochester, and Winona, every county of our diocese is home to someone served by us.
- **Love** that embraces all—regardless of age, faith tradition, ethnic background or *ability to pay*.

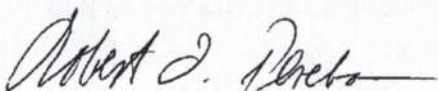
Your Spirit Circle investment in Catholic Charities will be used efficiently. Eighty-one cents of every dollar is spent on operating our programs. Only 19¢ of every dollar goes to administration and fundraising.

Please join the Spirit Circle today. It's easy. Complete the enclosed pledge with your gift amount, number of installments (my favorite option), and gift method that is best for you—check, credit card, automatic withdrawal, or online giving.

As a Spirit Circle member you will receive ***Stir into Flame***, an insider's briefing on what's new at Catholic Charities, including a special column dedicated to member comments and questions. You will also receive free admission to all Catholic Charities seminars and workshops.

Last year we served 1,900 more persons than in the prior year. The need is great. Your leadership gift emphatically states that, made in God's image and likeness, every human life has dignity.

With heartfelt thanks and prayers for God's blessings,



Robert L. Tereba, M.A.
Executive Director and Spirit Circle Member

P.S. I recently came across a catchy phrase that really applies here – “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” Loving God with all we have and loving our neighbor as ourselves is the main thing. Thank you for your kind consideration of my request.

enclosures