



A Briefing to Spirit Circle Members of Catholic Charities

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Charity Navigator Recognizes Catholic Charities for Excellence Catholic Charities Earns 4-Star Rating

Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota was notified by Charity Navigator on July 1, 2019 that it has attained the coveted 4-star rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to both accountability and transparency. Four star rated charities, in the judgment of Charity Navigator, use their resources efficiently, sustain their programs over time, and practice good governance and transparency.

Charity Navigator, which was founded in 2001, evaluates over 9,000 charities in the United States. Its mission is to provide donors with essential and objective information to give them confidence in the charitable decisions they make. As part of its commitment to objectivity, Charity Navigator accepts no contributions from the charities that it evaluates. One hundred percent of its revenue comes from donations. Visit its website at www.charitynavigator.org.

This is the second year in a row that we have received a 4-Star rating. Only 32% of charities evaluated ever receive two consecutive 4-star ratings. This indicates that Catholic Charities exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in Minnesota and in the United States; thereby setting our agency apart from our peers.

Your investment in our mission is not only valued; it is in hands you can trust. Your expectations for accountability, transparency, good stewardship, and concrete results that change lives have been independently confirmed.

As Spirit Circle members, we are ever mindful that your investment in Catholic Charities makes all the difference. Because of your compassionate leadership and support, lives are enriched and transformed. Because of you—families in crisis, vulnerable adults and seniors, and children in need reach their full potential. Heartfelt thanks for empowering our efforts on your behalf.

Note: Forbes, BusinessWeek, and Kiplinger's Financial Magazine, among others, have profiled and celebrated Charity Navigator's unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. They evaluate ten times more charities than the nearest competitor and attract more visitors to their website than all other charity rating groups combined making it the leading charity evaluator in America.



Your Support Matters – Now and Always

As Tereba retires as Executive Director, he reflects on the love that he shares with donors

I will retire as Executive Director of Catholic Charities in early October 2019. While it's been a joy and a privilege to serve in that capacity for the last 19 years, what really matters here, and what has always mattered, is that the work goes on.

You and I both know that. And I rejoice with you in the love that we have for Catholic Charities. It is a love that reflects our love for God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and for our neighbors. (Mk 12:29-31)

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That love is fundamental to why you and I support the work of our Catholic Charities. Please remain steadfast in your generous support. There is no reason for that to shift as I move on.

Through the sacrament of baptism, we share with you the call to affirm the goodness of God's creation and the dignity of the human person. As always, when you support our work, you:

- affirm human dignity by helping those most in need across a wide range of life circumstances
- give witness to Christ's love for the world
- know that your dollars are well spent
- know that your support helps those in need in our *local communities*.
- build resources at the grassroots level to serve those in need

The work of Catholic Charities will continue to evolve as the needs of the people of southern Minnesota change. Your support will provide the critical resources necessary for Catholic Charities to respond effectively.

I hold in my heart a deep reservoir of affection for you as I retire from the organization that we love. I know firsthand the difference you have made in the lives of so many people through our work. You have truly been a blessing to all of us at Catholic Charities – our Board, staff, volunteers, and, most importantly, those that have been our privilege to serve.

May God bless you and strengthen you in your compassion, generosity, and works of service to others!

Your friend in Christ,

Bob Tereba

MARY'S KITCHEN TABLE

Mary Alessio, Director of Advancement answers questions around Mary's Kitchen Table.

Today, I pose a question of my own as I think about my Executive Director retiring. I think of him and you as I consider the topic of leadership. This time I am asking Bob the question from his perspective at the table. Bob, what attributes do good leaders share?



While this column does not afford the space to do a “deep dive” into this topic, I’ll briefly address it anyway. I think we have all experienced good and bad leadership in our lives. Intuitively, we know that a good leader brings out the best in us while a bad one fails to elicit that response.

I think the best answer to my question is found in the concept of servant leadership, a concept first expressed by Robert K. Greenleaf in his book *The Servant as Leader*. In it Greenleaf writes, “The servant-leader is servant first... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first.”

This fundamental motivation contrasts with that of the leader-first philosophy that aspires to accumulate power, either to feed an ego or to acquire material wealth.

Greenleaf's philosophy and inspiration is carried on today by the *Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership*. Their website draws this distinction between the two philosophies,

While traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the “top of the pyramid,” servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.

I think servant leadership springs from a cluster of values that include humility, honesty, respect for the truth, empathy, compassion, and respect for others. I believe those values resonate with you and motivate you to be a Spirit Circle member.

After all, you generously support an organization that seeks what's best for those on the margins, those that our society overlooks. You invest your time and treasure in service to others. You understand that what really matters in life is not found in material possessions. Through faith, you share, with St. Paul, a healthy detachment from them when he writes,

I have learned how to cope with every circumstance – how to eat well or go hungry, to be well provided for or do without. In him who is the source of my strength I have strength for everything. (Phil 4:12-13)

God bless and thanks for the question Mary!