



Diocese of Youngstown

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 10, 2025

Reverend and Dear Monsignors/Fathers,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits as we embark on a new year filled with opportunities to serve our Lord and His people.

I am writing to announce that I have designated the month of February as **Catholic Charities Awareness Month** in our diocese. This initiative aims to highlight the vital work that Catholic Charities performs in our communities, providing support and hope to those in need. My hope is that Catholic Charities Awareness Month can inspire our parishioners to engage more deeply with the charitable works of our Church.

To ensure that our parishioners are well-informed about the mission and impact of Catholic Charities, particularly in advance of our 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal, I kindly request your cooperation in allowing a representative of Catholic Charities to deliver a message to your parishioners at each of your weekend Masses sometime during the month of February. The speaker will share a brief, three-minute reflection right before the start of Mass or during announcements on the importance of Catholic Charities and how it provides help and creates hope for thousands of people each year.

Staff from Catholic Charities are working on a speakers' schedule and will contact your parish office in the coming weeks to answer any questions and to let you know who will be speaking at each of your Masses. Additional materials and information to share with your parishioners will be forthcoming from Catholic Charities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to our faith and community. I pray "That All May Be One" in love and charity as we support the efforts of Catholic Charities to serve our neighbors in need.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown

DJB/gd