



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

February, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Catholic Charities has a rich, 96-year history of providing vital services and hope to God's people in need. The year 2020 was no exception. Through the pandemic and as their largest fundraisers were canceled, Catholic Charities remained open as staff and volunteers served on the front lines to bring relief and advocate for the poor, sick, hungry, and weary every day.

Because of your continued prayers and generosity, thousands of people received food, assistance with medicine, rent and utilities, counseling services, legal assistance, Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance, clothing, diapers, hygiene products, and more. They felt relief as they were told Catholic Charities could help during one of the hardest years in recent history.

Catholic Charities is able to continue these services through the ongoing generosity of people like you – donors, staff, volunteers, board members, and organizations coming together to fulfill the mission.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic Charities, especially through a pandemic, to ensure God's love and mercy is extended to all his children.

During the weekend of February 27/28, 2021, the annual collection for Catholic Charities will again be held in most of our deaneries. This year, I challenge you to continue to support Catholic Charities as they continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

**Pastors/Parish Leaders:** Please announce this collection to your parishioners in your bulletins, website, or other social media platforms the weekend of **February 20/21, 2021** and gather the proceeds the weekend of **February 27/28, 2021**. Please remit the proceeds as soon as possible to your local or nearest Catholic Charities area office. Also, you may be contacted by a Catholic Charities representative regarding the presentation of information in conjunction with the annual collection. Please extend to them your cooperation.