



December 2014

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have long treasured this observation recorded in the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: "...that though he was rich, [Jesus Christ] became poor for your sakes, so that through his poverty, you might become rich" (cf. 2 Cor 8:8). As the feast of Christmas draws near, you and I are reminded of the poverty which Jesus embraced. Setting aside the heavenly glory of His divine nature, He assumed our humanity, being born in a cattle stable and allowing Himself to be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. How helpless and poor He became! Our Savior bypassed all heavenly and earthly riches and embraced a life of true poverty.

Even more, the Lord Jesus identifies Himself with the poor and the needy (cf. Mt 25:31-46). So we actually encounter Jesus Christ in every person in need and, therefore, we truly can reach out to Him, unseen but present in them, through our generosity to our diocesan Catholic Charities, whose relentless efforts enables us to encounter Christ in the poor.

Pope Francis encourages us to pursue these encounters fearlessly. "Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually...which brings us joy and gives meaning to our lives," (cf. Apostolic Exhortation: *Joy of the Gospel*, n. 269 ).

What a wonderful opportunity we have to draw near to the poor and touch the Person of Christ in them through the mission of **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington**. It is vital for each of us to partner in this diocesan mission through the second collection for Catholic Charities on the weekend of **December 13 and 14**. I encourage you to reflect prayerfully on how your support will unite your heart to Christ's in His identification with and love for the poor.

Our Holy Father tells us, "No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted." Please join with me in making real and tangible the love of the Poor Christ with those most in need by generously and even sacrificially supporting Catholic Charities on December 13 and 14.

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Loverde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde  
Bishop of Arlington



# Annual Christmas Collection

December 13-14, 2014

“And it is important to be able to make people welcome; this is something even more beautiful than any kind of ornament or decoration. I say this because when we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them – some food, a place in our homes, our time – not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched.”

Pope Francis



 *your* neighbor  
**WWW.CCDA.NET**  
CHANGE A LIFE • DONATE ONLINE  
SECURE • EASY • FAST

 CatholicCharitiesArlington

*\*88 cents of every dollar goes to direct services and programs*

**94,419**  
Lives Were Touched  
in 2014

## Did You Know?

- ♥ \$175 will help teach homeless fathers & mothers new job skills
- ♥ \$99 will help provide meals & activities for lonely seniors
- ♥ \$45 will help give pro-life counseling to a couple
- ♥ \$25 will help stock food pantry shelves near you



## Help us help our neighbors

Please give generously to the Catholic Charities' Annual Christmas Collection in your parish on December 13th & 14th.