

The Mission

Serving the Community since 1947

Anniversary Mass Marks 60 Years of Service

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



Bishop Loverde arrives for the Anniversary Mass along with Fr. Ready (left) and Fr. Mealey at St. Mark Church.

More than three hundred supporters, staff, and board members joined Bishop Paul S. Loverde September 16 at St. Mark's Church in Vienna for an anniversary Mass marking Catholic Charities' 60 years of service.

In his opening remarks, the Bishop said, "We are united in thanksgiving for the services of Catholic Charities here in northern Virginia since 1947. So we give

Former Board President Peter Davis (center) chats with Board Member Kurt Pfluger and his wife Bonny.

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



thanks to God on this 60th anniversary and renew our efforts that charity, the face of Christ, will be ever more effective and visible among us."

The entrance procession included board members and staff carrying banners identifying their particular programs. Concelebrants for the Mass were Fr. Mark Mealey, Fr. Frank Ready, Fr. David Martin, Fr. Patrick Posey, Fr. Kevin Walsh, and three former agency directors: Msgr. Thomas Cassidy, Fr. Gerry Creedon, and Fr. John O'Hara. Deacon Tom Bello assisted.

In his homily, Bishop Loverde said, "Since her beginning, the Church has been a living tangible source of charitable outreach to those in need. Ever mindful of how intimately Christ identifies himself with the poor, the least of his brothers and sisters, as we are reminded in today's Gospel

account, the Church has given food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, welcome to the stranger, clothing to the naked, housing to the homeless; the Church has cared for the ill and visited prisoners."

The Bishop asked, "Does love have a face? The answer is 'yes': this diocesan Church of Arlington, especially through her office of Catholic Charities."

Plans for the Mass and gala reception were organized by 60th anniversary committee members Judy and Peter Davis (co-chairs), Pat Mudd, Laura Tramonte, Lauren Smith, Sallie McHugh, Chris McLaughlin, Dee Estes, Ginna Chambers, and Stephen Luteran.

Fr. Patrick Holroyd, pastor of St. Mark Church, kindly hosted the celebration.

Procession participants include Children's Services' Program Director Linda Cullen with foster mother and child (right) and Associate Directors (below L. to R.) Ray Pisney, J. Michael Lanigan, and Sally O'Dwyer.



Photos by Jeanne Spaeth





Stephen Luteran

FROM THE DESK OF Stephen Luteran

We are joyful this fall to celebrate the reopening of Christ House, our emergency shelter.

I would like to reflect on a passage taken from an encyclical written by our beloved John Paul II that, I think, captures what Christ House is all about:

“In our service of charity, we must be inspired and dis-

tinguished by a specific attitude: We must care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to become neighbors to everyone and to show special favor to those who are poorest, most alone, and most in need.” (*The Gospel of Life*)

At Christ House, we can also live out the message of St. Therese de Lisieux, who told us if we do ordinary things with great love, they become extraordinary and have infinite merit.

I believe that the beauty of Christ House is found in the simplicity of its services—food, shelter, and genuine listening to our clients’ needs. Christ House is where you can see the Gospel lived out in its purest dimension.

We thank you for your support of Christ House and all our programs.

Stephen Luteran, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Executive Director
Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Arlington

O’Connell Students Help Refill Christ House Pantry

The truckload of Chunky Soup cans arrived at the Christ House shelter October 19, just in time for refilling the basement shelves, which had been empty for the past six months while renovations were being made at the shelter.



An O’Connell student helps stock the food pantry shelves at Christ House.

The more than 12,600 cans were collected and delivered by Bishop O’Connell High School students, who have been organizing the soup drive on an annual basis to help Christ House feed the hungry. Following tradition, the students gathered in the auditorium to recite the “living” rosary before they collected the cans from all homerooms and loaded them onto a truck.

Rob Buckreis, one of the O’Connell teachers making the delivery with the students, said, “I participated in this soup drive in 1986 when I was a student at O’Connell. We’ve been

doing this for more than 30 years.”

Executive Director Stephen Luteran said, “We thank the O’Connell students for their great generosity. Anyone else wanting to help restock our shelves can call 703-549-8644 for details.”

VFW Assists



Stephen Luteran accepts a donation from (L. to R.) Alice Merrill, Linda Bond, and Shirley Norris of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

“Your gift is very timely because we are making a Christ House on Wheels delivery of food to St.

John Bosco parish in Woodstock tomorrow,” said Executive Director Stephen Luteran as he thanked members of the Springfield VFW Ladies Auxiliary (Post 7327) on October 18. Auxiliary members Linda Bond (president), Alice Merrill (secretary-treasurer), and Shirley Norris (trustee) hand-delivered two generous checks for the Christ House on Wheels program (703-549-8644).

Christ House Is Renovated and Rededicated

To mark completion of renovation work at the Christ House shelter, members of the Catholic Charities' community gathered for an October 12 Rededication Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul S. Loverde at St. Mary's Church, followed by a blessing ceremony at the shelter, located on West Street in Alexandria.

After the blessing, more than seventy-five attendees were invited to tour the facilities, freshly painted on the outside and completely redone on the inside. Bedroom, bathrooms, dining areas, client lounges, and staff offices were remodeled and refurbished. New heating and air conditioning systems with energy-efficient controls were installed. A new fire protection and alarm system was also installed.

In his opening remarks at the Mass, Bishop Loverde said, "We rejoice that Christ House will soon open again in its renovated form. We give thanks to God for the many blessings he has given to the little ones, the needy ones, through the services at Christ House since 1973. We pray that Christ House will continue to be a home of love—Christ's love."

**Don't miss
"Forums for the Family"
and
"Following in the
Footsteps of Jesus."**

Details at www.ccca.net

The Mission, Fall 2007

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Bishop Loverde and Deacons Killian (left) and Ostrom begin the Christ House Rededication Mass at St. Mary's Church in Alexandria.

In his homily, Bishop Loverde said, "The Eucharist is the source of our life. . . . We must be living sacraments, or signs, for charity. . . . Prayer leads us to service. Faith leads us to action. So, as the age-old saying goes, 'Christian charity is faith in action.' "

Concelebrants at the Mass were Fr. Mark Mealey, Fr. John Cregan, Fr. Frank Hull, and Fr. Kevin Walsh. Deacons Ted Ostrom, a former director at Christ House, and Anthony Killian, who served a summer internship at Christ House, assisted at the liturgy.

Renovation of the three-story shelter was made possible through funds from the Diocese's Rooted in Faith—Forward in Hope capital campaign and contributions from generous donors, including companies doing the renovation work.

These companies included Advanced Project Management, Inc. (professional project and construction management), Dietze Construction Group (general contractor), Envision Design (architect), Fire Watch Services, Inc. (fire protection equipment and labor), Flooring Solutions (flooring subcontractor), Potomac Energy Group (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineers), Precision Doors and Hardware (doors and

frames subcontractor), Shapiro and Duncan (mechanical equipment subcontractor), and Shelter Care (exterior painting).

Planning for the Mass and Christ House reception was organized by rededication committee members Susan Artz, Nancy Fronckewicz, Susan Herre, Jennifer Krysa, Aimee Nichols, and Stephen Luteran.

Fr. Dennis Kleinmann, pastor at St. Mary Church in Alexandria, kindly hosted the Mass.

For information about ways to help Christ House as it reopens its shelter beds, restocks its pantry shelves, and serves meals in its refurbished dining areas, call 703-549-8644.



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Fredericksberg Office to Benefit

Students at Fredericksberg's Holy Cross Academy are beginning their annual collection of baby items for Catholic Charities' Fredericksburg District Office's Baby Needs Closet, which provides diapers, clothes, and formula to low-income families. St. Susan Louise, principal, says, "We began the collection the first year we opened the school [1998]. It's one of the most important pro-life messages we can give our students—collect baby things for poor families."

Program Director Pam Staszak expects the delivery in December and says, "We thank Holy Cross, one of our most faithful supporters."



Holy Cross students donate items to Catholic Charities' Baby Needs Closet (540-371-1124).

CCDA file photo

Bishop Blesses New Loudoun Office



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

Bishop Loverde arrives for the blessing of the new office along with Fr. Mosimann (left) and Brother Eddy.

More than sixty guests attended the August 29 blessing of Catholic Charities' new Loudoun Regional Office in Leesburg.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde, who led the blessing ceremony, said, "This is another milestone, another office, to make the work of charity more visible, more present, and more attainable."

Catholic Charities' Executive Director Stephen Luteran said, "It has long been a goal for us to expand our services to this area." He thanked board members who helped provide seed

money for the new office, which will offer services to residents of Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Page, Rappahannock, Warren, and Shenandoah counties.

Fr. John Mosimann, pastor at St. John the Apostle of Leesburg, participated in the prayer service.

The office will provide Family Services' counseling, which includes mental health counseling for individuals, couples, and families for such issues as marital and relationship problems, anxiety and depression, grief and loss, and parenting concerns.

It will also offer crisis pregnancy services, foster care for infants and young children, and adoption services.

Immigration services will include legal assistance, translations, and referrals to governmental and other agencies.

The office is located at 100 Dry Mill Road, suite 102, in Leesburg. For information, call 703-443-2481.

St. Martin's Hosts Signing Agreement to Protect Seniors

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center hosted the October 5th signing agreement between the state Attorney General's Office and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Police Department, and SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council to join forces to protect seniors from crimes and victimization through the TRIAD program, a nationwide effort urging localities to cooperate to prevent crimes against the elderly.

Attorney General Robert McDonnell said, "Many crimes are preventable—identity theft, abuse by caretakers, mail

scams, and Internet scams. Seniors can become aware of safeguards—don't put mail out overnight for pick-up; don't give out over the phone financial information."

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne thanked the "Salt Council, the ones who make it work, led by Michael Wenk," for their efforts to initiate TRIAD in Alexandria. Police Chief Deputy Blaine Corle said that through the partnership, "We are watching out for each other."

Information about Alexandria's TRIAD program is available at 703-998-6796.

Attorney General McDonnell (right) applauds the TRIAD program, which includes signers Chief Deputy Corle and Sheriff Lawhorne (left to right below).



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