

Salt. Leaven. Light.



Catholic
Charities
USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

Pope Francis used these words to describe Catholic Charities, our national network of caring people bringing compassion, relief and hope to those in need.



Every day, across the country, Catholic Charities reaches out to vulnerable people, not because they are Catholic, but because we are Catholic.

We answer the call of Pope Francis, carrying out his vision of true Christian “encounter” with “the least among us.”¹

¹ We answer the call of Pope Francis, carrying out his vision of true Christian “encounter [with]... the least among us.” Pope Francis, Homily, St. Peter’s Basilica, September 26, 2013



▶ Lifting Up People Who Are Poor

**In all places and circumstances, Christians...
are called to hear the cry of the poor.** – Pope Francis ²



Here's how Catholic Charities agencies help people struggling in poverty:

- Provide food, clothing and shelter.
- Assist with financial difficulties.
- Offer job training and life skills education.
- Create opportunity through social enterprise.
- Support a path out of poverty through mentorship.

Through its Circles® Northwest Florida program, Catholic Charities in Pensacola, Florida, matches families in poverty with peer mentors to help them develop financial, social, and emotional resources to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

www.ccnwfl.org

² Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), §191, November 24, 2013



▶ Sharing Food with All

“When food is shared in a fair way, with solidarity, when no one is deprived, every community can meet the needs of the poorest.” – Pope Francis³

Here’s how Catholic Charities agencies help ensure access to affordable and nutritious food:

- Manage food pantries.
- Run hot meal programs.
- Cultivate community gardens.
- Facilitate SNAP enrollment.
- Offer health and nutrition education.

In Aroostook County, Maine, Catholic Charities operates a large-scale garden that provided over four tons of vegetables to local food pantries and families in need last year.

www.ccmaine.org

³ Pope Francis, General Audience, St. Peter’s Square, June 5, 2013



▶ Giving Aid to Migrants and Refugees

“Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who...share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.” – Pope Francis ⁴

Here’s how Catholic Charities agencies help these newcomers in our midst:

- Give immediate and long-term humanitarian assistance.
- Offer legal aid and representation.
- Provide refugee resettlement services.
- Teach English language classes.
- Assist with cultural integration.

When thousands of weary migrants, including unaccompanied children, came across the U.S.-Mexico border in the summer of 2014, Catholic Charities agencies across the country opened respite centers to give humanitarian relief to thousands of suffering individuals and families.

⁴ Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, August 5, 2013





▶ Supporting Families

“Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. The family...is the foundation.” – Pope Francis⁵

Here’s how Catholic Charities agencies help families become stronger:

- Help families identify and develop their strengths.
- Provide counseling and behavioral health interventions.
- Offer marriage and parenting education.
- Educate on financial literacy and asset development.
- Provide affordable child care and after-school programs.

Family specialists at Catholic Family Center in Rochester, New York, help families in the community identify their strengths and set goals to improve their home life and financial stability.

www.cfcrochester.org

⁵ Pope Francis, Interview, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 27, 2013



▶ Ministering to Prisoners and Ex-offenders

“All Christians and people of good will are called today to fight...[for]...the human dignity of those who have been deprived of freedom.” – Pope Francis⁶



Here’s how Catholic Charities agencies help those in prison and those leaving prison:

- Bring spiritual care into prisons.
- Offer educational programs for inmates.
- Help ex-offenders re-enter society.
- Provide juvenile offender rehabilitation.
- Promote reconciliation between offenders and victims.

The TurnAround program of Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph helps ex-offenders find homes, get jobs, and re-establish successful lives outside of prison, reducing their chances of returning to prison.

www.catholiccharities-kcsj.org

⁶ Pope Francis, Address to the Delegates of the International Association of Penal Law, Vatican City, October 23, 2014

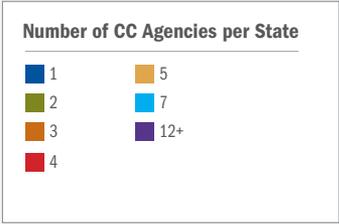


Pope Francis calls Catholic Charities the “salt, leaven and light that provides a beacon of hope to those in need.”⁷

That beacon of hope shines wide and far, from Catholic Charities agencies serving in communities all across the country.

⁷ Pope Francis, Video Greeting to Catholic Charities USA Network, October 5, 2014

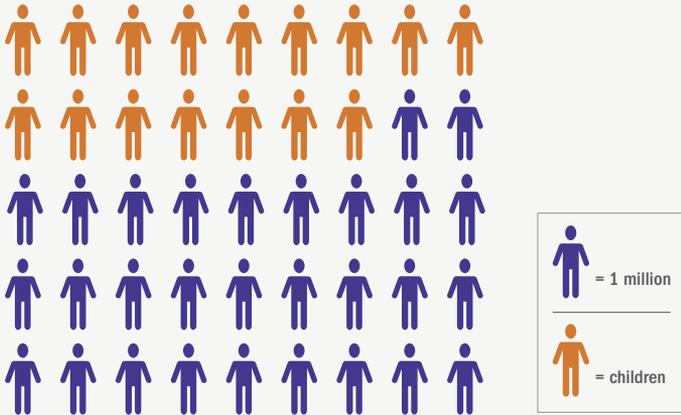
► Catholic Charities Agencies Across the Country



Every year, Catholic Charities offers help and hope to the many people in need in our country, regardless of their background, circumstances or religious affiliation. These include:

- **More than 45 million people living in poverty in America.**
- **More than 16 million children—over one in five—who live in poverty.**
- **More than half of all families with children who live paycheck to paycheck.***

* Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013, United States Census Bureau, September 2014.



We especially tend to vulnerable populations, such as:

- Children and the unborn
- Ex-offenders
- Immigrants and refugees
- People with physical and mental disabilities
- Seniors
- Veterans

These populations, often struggling on the margins of society, are particularly at risk for poverty.



To reduce poverty, we focus on providing support in the following areas:

- Providing Education and Training
- Building Financial Security
- Feeding the Hungry
- Supporting Healthy Lives
- Sheltering Those in Need



Disasters

put individuals and families in dire need and at risk for long-term poverty, so when natural or man-made disaster strikes, we are there.

We are the domestic disaster response arm of the U.S. Catholic Church, responding to crisis before, during and after disasters.



In sum, Catholic Charities helps the poor and the vulnerable, the lost and the abandoned, those on the margins and those struggling to get by.

With Pope Francis, we reject a “throw away” culture, where many among us are devalued and discarded like consumer goods.

We embrace a different vision: “to patiently build a more diverse, more welcoming, more humane, more inclusive society that does not need to discard those who are weak in body and mind.”⁸



8 Pope Francis, Meeting with the Elderly, St. Peter's Square, September 28, 2014

The difficult plight of so many in our society impels us to work for the common good of all.



We strive, as Pope Francis has asked, “to be builders of the world, to work for a better world.”⁹ We do this by:

- Speaking out as advocates for those without a voice
- Working towards more fair and just social systems
- Bringing together people of good will to act
- Researching evidence-based solutions to poverty
- Strengthening our network’s services and programs

Since 1910, Catholic Charities USA has been an advocate for the common good, taking on the role of “attorney for the poor” and vulnerable and bringing their needs and hopes before our nation’s leaders and lawmakers.

⁹ Pope Francis, Prayer Vigil at Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 27, 2013

Our Catholic identity is the foundation for all we do.

We carry on the sacred heritage of our Christian faith established 2,000 years ago. Across time, we heed “the call of the early church to make sure that all needs are met.”¹⁰

Catholic Social Teaching, expressed in seven principles distilled from Scripture and Catholic values and tradition, guides our work.

- The inherent dignity of each person
- Our call and need to participate in family and community
- The rights and responsibilities of all people
- The priority to care for the poor and vulnerable
- The dignity of work and the rights of workers
- Solidarity with the poor
- Care for the Earth and our physical environment

¹⁰ Pope Francis, Video Greeting to Catholic Charities USA Network, October 5, 2014

We work closely with parishes and dioceses to involve the Catholic community in our work.



Parish – A specific community of the Christian faithful



Diocese – A geographical division of the church headed by a bishop



Bishop – An ordained clergy member appointed to oversee a diocese



Archdiocese – The chief diocese in a region, often given pre-eminence due to size or historical significance; led by an archbishop



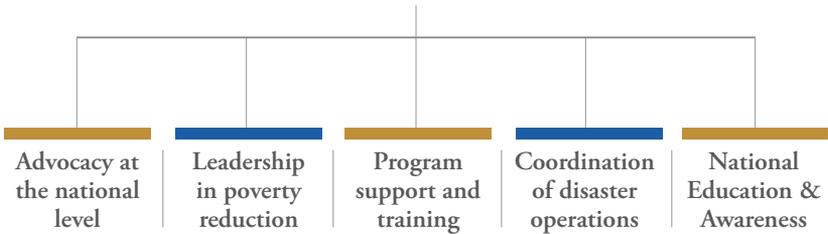
Parish Social Ministry – Parishes engaging in the social ministry work of the church and of Catholic Charities



Catholic Charities USA, a national membership organization, provides valuable leadership and support to the more than 160 Catholic Charities agencies and affiliates across the

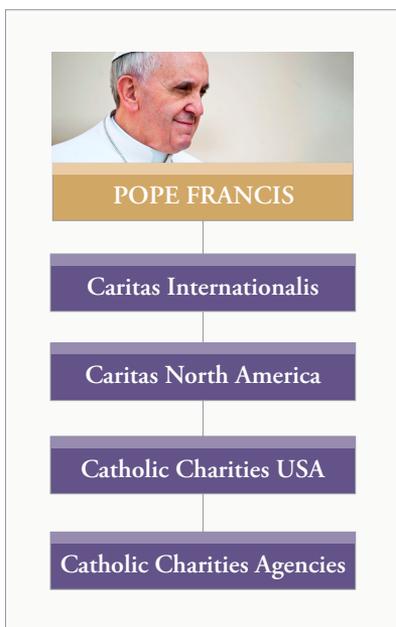
country. These entities operate more than 2,500 service sites in 54 states and territories and employ more than 70,000 people.

Catholic Charities USA also advocates for justice and calls the entire church and others to do the same.



We are part of a global movement to live out Christ’s call—“Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34).

We are members of Caritas Internationalis, a worldwide confederation of more than 200 Catholic human service providers, including our U.S. partner Catholic Relief Services. This confederation works under the direction of Pope Francis.



Caritas means love.

And love, more than anything, imbues and inspires the work of Catholic Charities.



You are the salt, leaven and light that provides a beacon of hope to those in need. You as Catholic Charities... help to change the course of your local communities, your states, your country and the world by your witness to that encounter with the Lord Jesus, who gives us abundant life and joy. – Pope Francis, 2014 Address to Catholic Charities



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www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org

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