Dear friends of Catholic Charities,

In April of 2015, before his visit to the U.S., Pope Francis announced that December 8th would begin an extraordinary Jubilee, the Holy Year of Mercy. This Jubilee is a dedicated time on the Church calendar during which we place a special emphasis on our relationship with Christ and one another.

The emphasis on Mercy, God’s unconditional, loving care for humanity, asks us to recognize that we are all in need of God’s mercy and, with humility, we must extend that compassion to others.

We at Catholic Charities, in accord with others in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, are encouraging the community to Try – Show – Live God’s Mercy during this Holy year and at all times throughout their lives. I encourage you to take this time to reflect on your acceptance of God’s mercy in your own life; we all fall short of the glory of God and may have a difficult time accepting His forgiveness, forgiving ourselves, or extending that forgiveness to others.

I want to thank you for supporting Catholic Charities in our mission to extend mercy to those in need in our community, regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity or economic status. We know Jesus identifies completely with the hungry, homeless, sick and imprisoned and reminds us, “What you do for the least of your brethren, you do for Me.” The Holy Year of Mercy includes fulfillment of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, charitable actions benefiting those on the margins of society. It is only with your support that we are able to provide these life-giving services.

It is my hope that this Year of Mercy will be a season of renewal for our community and that it will inspire compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Catholic Charities will offer multiple opportunities throughout this Holy Year to become more involved with our efforts to provide for the poor. Thank you, again, for being a partner in ministry and supporting the organization referred to by Pope Francis as the, “engine of the Church that organizes love.”

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President/CEO

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**Save the Date to Show Your Heart!**

Catholic Charities once again invites our schools to “Show Your Heart” for the poor and vulnerable in our community.

This year’s “Show Your Heart” Day is scheduled for February 19.

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**Catholic Charities Welcomes the Holy Year of Mercy**

Did you know that, with your help, CCANO was able to help 76,305 people in the last fiscal year? 

**JANUARY 2016**

Diocese of New Orleans
just this past year, Isaiah 43 introduced the Young Peacemakers Leadership Council, a group of teens and young adults that has four main goals: to build leadership skills, to encourage peace, to promote advocacy and civic engagement, and to perform community service. The group had a successful first year, which included holding a peace summit in July and learning how to advocate for important issues in the community. They have also partnered with the Office of Justice and Peace and the Office of Racial Harmony to hold peace prayer walks. “The prayer walks held Pope Francis’ call to be out in the community, to step outside of the church, and be engaged,” Gibson believes.

In the New Year, the program plans to focus on capacity building by partnering with schools and churches to serve even more children, parents, and families. By strengthening the family unit at its roots, Isaiah 43 hopes to promote peaceful leadership and positively affect the culture of violence that has become far too common in our community.

Stay tuned with Catholic Charities during this Holy Year of Mercy as we strive to personify the message and continue to advocate for the voiceless in our community. Join us on this journey of mercy and empowerment -- we are excited for great things to come in 2016!

Additionaly, four returning members will hold leadership roles this year. Michael B. Read will serve as Chairman, Byron A. Adams, Jr. will serve as Vice-Chairman, Michael F. Hulefeld will serve as Secretary, and Lloyd A. Tate will serve as Treasurer.

Chairman Mike Read said, “It’s an honor to be able to lead such an amazing group of people. I’m confident that we’ll be able to use each of our diverse talents and backgrounds to serve Catholic Charities and the people they help in many different ways. I’m excited to get to work and see what this year has in store for us!”

On Friday, January 15, 2016, the new members of this year’s Board of Directors took a bus tour of some of New Orleans’ most significant historic landmarks and cultural sites. The tour featured stops at the French Quarter, the Tremé neighborhood, the Warehouse District, the Garden District, and the historic Algiers Point. The tour was led by executive director of the New Orleans Center forching, Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, D.C., Board Member Emeritus; Very Rev. Rodney P. Bourg, V.F.; Terrel J. Broussard; Anh “Josie” Goo; Dr. Pierre; Dettige; John J. Eckhoidt; Dr. Elizabeth H. Fontam; Janice Martin Foster; James T. Hannan, Michael P. Hulefeld; John Hummel; Demetr M. Mercedal; Leon J. Raymond, Jr.; Brian J. Rotolo; Mark J. Spaniel; and Lloyd A. Tate, who returned as a member of the Board of Directors.

“I look forward to working closely with each of our new Board of Directors! I know that each one of them serves as the hands of Christ and will do outstanding work for Catholic Charities and for this community. We welcome the enthusiasm and commitment of each member of our CCANO Board!” said Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C., President and CEO.

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On Friday, January 15, 2016, the new members of this year’s Board of Directors took a bus tour of some of our program sites. Members had the opportunity to tour Padua House, the Incarnate Word Racial Harmony Center, the OneApp Center, and the ACCESS Mobile Unit. The tour serve as an opportunity to see the sites, meet the employees who work there, and visit with people of all ages who utilize our various programs and services.

The 2016 Board of Directors is looking forward to another great year at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans!