News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

INTRODUCING THE NEW CCANO HOMEPAGE!

We’re excited to share that we’ve redesigned our homepage to be more user-friendly than ever before! The new page allows users to access our programs, services, upcoming events and latest news right from the homepage – no searching necessary. Users can also sign up to volunteer, add their names and email addresses to our database and donate in just a few clicks of their mouse.

Head over to www.ccano.org to browse our new homepage and check out these exciting updates. We hope you like what you see!

God bless you,

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

Introducing the New CCANO Homepage!

Open Your Doors This Easter Season

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Thank you for joining Catholic Charities in our Unity Through Prayer Lenten Campaign. Inspired by Pope Francis’ words during his 2017 Lenten message, “Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then, we will be able to experience and share the full joy of Easter.” We’ve asked you all, our community, to join with us in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to support the most vulnerable among us.

Every year for Lent, we fast or abstain from some luxury in our lives to mimic the sacrifice Christ made during his 40 day journey into the desert. While giving up certain comforts allows us to experience on a minute scale what the disciples and starvings have to endure, we should remember to pair the act of physically abstaining with spiritual fasting. Fasting should “wake us up” as Pope Francis said in this year’s Lenten message, it should “make us more attentive to God and our neighbor.” Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are tools meant to aid in self-examination, repentance from sin, and, ultimately, a return to the Lord. During this Lenten season, as we reflect on our own shortcomings, let us fast from judgement, intolerance, and negativity. Giving up something for Lent should demonstrate compassion and empathy, as we fast from harsh criticism detoured out in a reactionary manner, let us feast on considered constructive praise. Fasting from judgement can be as simple as making an effort to be conscious of the way you react or treat people based on their accent, manner of dress, or other outward signifiers of class, race, ethnicity, or gender. Fasting from quick, harsh, unfettered confrontations can be as simple as saying a prayer before confronting a coworker and keeping your own shortcomings in mind. There is still time to make the most of this Lenten season.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts.

God bless you,

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

March 27
Monthly Peace Prayer Walk, 6 PM at St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory School

April 17
Volunteer Information Session, 4 PM

April 24
Registration for Summer Citizenship Classes, 6 PM at the North Kenner Library

May 1
GiveNOLA Day

SAVE THE DATE!

Notes from the Heart

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

INSIDE:
• CCANO Website
• In the Spotlight
• Money Matters
• Employee Recognition
• Fore!Kids Strengthen Children
• Interfaith Prayer Service

www.ccano.org
(504) 522-3755 | ccano@ccano.org

Fore!Kids – continued from page three

Fore!Kids

GiveNOLA Day
May 1
6 PM at the North Kenner Library
Registration for Summer Citizenship Classes,

Thank you for your prayers and gifts.

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Thank you for joining Catholic Charities in our Unity Through Prayer Lenten Campaign. Inspired by Pope Francis’ words during his 2017 Lenten message, “Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then, we will be able to experience and share the full joy of Easter.” We’ve asked you all, our community, to join with us in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to support the most vulnerable among us.

Every year for Lent, we fast or abstain from some luxury in our lives to mimic the sacrifice Christ made during his 40 day journey into the desert. While giving up certain comforts allows us to experience on a minute scale what the disciples and starvings have to endure, we should remember to pair the act of physically abstaining with spiritual fasting. Fasting should “wake us up” as Pope Francis said in this year’s Lenten message, it should “make us more attentive to God and our neighbor.” Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are tools meant to aid in self-examination, repentance from sin, and, ultimately, a return to the Lord. During this Lenten season, as we reflect on our own shortcomings, let us fast from judgement, intolerance, and negativity. Giving up something for Lent should demonstrate compassion and enrich others.

As we fast from judgement, let us feast on empathy and compassion; as we fast from harsh criticism detoured out in a reactionary manner, let us feast on considered constructive praise. Fasting from judgement can be as simple as making an effort to be conscious of the way you react or treat people based on their accent, manner of dress, or other outward signifiers of class, race, ethnicity, or gender. Fasting from quick, harsh, unfettered confrontations can be as simple as saying a prayer before confronting a coworker and keeping your own shortcomings in mind. There is still time to make the most of this Lenten season.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts.

God bless you,

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

Introduction to the New CCANO Homepage!

We’re excited to share that we’ve redesigned our homepage to be more user-friendly than ever before! The new page allows users to access our programs, services, upcoming events and latest news right from the homepage – no searching necessary. Users can also sign up to volunteer, add their names and email addresses to our database and donate in just a few clicks of their mouse.

Head over to www.ccano.org to browse our new homepage and check out these exciting updates. We hope you like what you see!
Refugee Services Program Manager Lilian Alvarez

Lilian Alvarez reflects on her family's journey to the United States, Lilian is filled with both pride and heartbreak. "I struggle to fathom that some people still believe that my family and I, along with thousands of other immigrants, don't belong in this country," she says of the current atmosphere.

"But I remain hopeful with the demonstrations of support for all immigrants," Lilian shares, "I want everyone to know that my family's story is similar to that of many other immigrants throughout their lives for train- ing, education, and more."

Money Matters Offers Brighter Futures

In September of 2017, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) launched the "Share the Journey" campaign, which seeks to bring together the global community to support the plight of immigrants and refugees and all those who are forced to flee their homes due to persecution, violence and war.

In light of this effort and the current political and current financial situation, faith leaders in New Orleans banded together to bring peace, unity and understanding to the community.

Organized by Father Buddy Noel, the Archbishop of New Orleans' ecumenical office, and countless other community leaders from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds, a large crowd gathered at the Hispanic Apostolate on Sunday, February 25 for an Interfaith Prayer Service in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

The service began with a traditional fan dance. Then, religious and ethnic leaders from around 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of dedicated, selfless service to Catholic Charities. We honored teachers, case managers, CNAs, administra- tive professionals and so many more who have offered their skills and time to those in need in our community!

In her opening remarks, Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C., President and CEO of Catho- lic Charities, encouraged those gathered to think of one memory or one client they've cherished during their years on the job. "How have they made you better, person, a better representative of Jesus?" she asked.

Growing up in the Chicago area, Lilian attended public schools that offered both English as a Sec- ond Language classes and continuing Spanish education. Her parents instilled in their children the importance of continuing to both speak Spanish and practice their Guatemalan traditions and values.

In addition to being bilingual in English and Spanish, Lilian also studied French at her high school and college. She originally chose to major in Inter- national Business in college, but later decided to pursue a degree in Family and Child Studies with an emphasis in Social Services.

Throughout her career, Lilian has worked with the immigrant population in a number of capaci- ties including at-risk youth, kinship care, young mothers and mentoring. Now, she serves as the Program Manager for Catholic Charities Archdio- cose of New Orleans' Refugee Services program.

"While my family didn't face most of the ob- stacles a lot of our clients face, I knew that our stories were similar. Our story is one of hope. One of struggle and humility," she says of her relation- ship with her clients. "Refugees and immigrants have either had everything taken away from them or have given up everything they know for a chance at their next chapter."

Reflecting on her family's journey to the United States, Lilian is filled with both pride and heartbreak. "I struggle to fathom that some people still believe that my family and I, along with thousands of other immigrants, don't belong in this country," she says of the current atmosphere.

"But I remain hopeful with the demonstrations of support for all immigrants," Lilian shares, "I want everyone to know that my family's story is similar to that of many other immigrants throughout their lives for train- ing, education, and more."

Money Matters Offers Brighter Futures

In September of 2017, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) launched the "Share the Journey" campaign, which seeks to bring together the global community to support the plight of immigrants and refugees and all those who are forced to flee their homes due to persecution, violence and war.

In light of this effort and the current political and current financial situation, faith leaders in New Orleans banded together to bring peace, unity and understanding to the community.

Organized by Father Buddy Noel, the Archbishop of New Orleans' ecumenical office, and countless other community leaders from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds, a large crowd gathered at the Hispanic Apostolate on Sunday, February 25 for an Interfaith Prayer Service in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.