

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

of the Diocese of La Crosse



2013 Annual Report



A Message from the Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace.

I hope you take a few moments and page through this booklet and find real life friends and neighbors who would like to thank you personally. You'll discover the beautiful faces of good people who are genuinely grateful that you were there for them. So grateful, in fact, that they agreed to share their stories. Like me, they want you to know just how important you are to Catholic Charities.

We were there for literally thousands of people in our diocese in 2013 because you were there!

Ours isn't vague work done in far away lands seen only on television commercials. Instead, we provide shelter and warmth for the homeless, encouragement for those with disabilities, and food, clothing, and services for people right here within our own diocesan neighborhoods.

How wonderful a gift to know that Christ can be found, not in the extraordinary, but in the everyday faces of our brothers and sisters! He's right here with you, among you, and in you too!

I add my personal sentiments of gratitude for your support and participation in the beautiful ministry of Catholic Charities. May God bless you abundantly for your goodness!

With personal good wishes and prayers, I am,

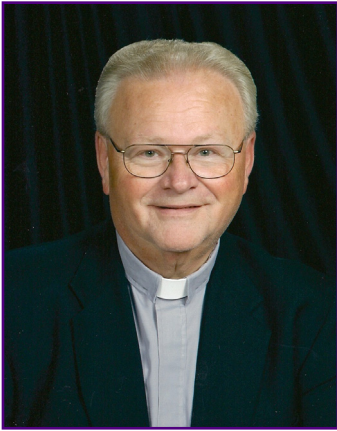
+ William Patrick Callahan

Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse



*We were there to
serve thousands of
people in our diocese,
because
you were there!*





A Message from the Executive Director of Catholic Charities

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we never know how God is going to manifest Himself in our lives on any given day. Here at Catholic Charities it may be in a young couple coming in to talk to us about adoption; or it may be a mom with a baby riding on her hip and a toddler in tow who's near tears because she's behind on her utility payments and is afraid they'll be turned off. Perhaps it's an individual seeking help with an immigration situation; or occasionally it's a co-worker who has just received some bad news or is faced with some new medical problem. In the past few years, and notably this past year in 2013, we've had many homeless people come to our doors at our shelter in Eau Claire or at the Warming Centers in Wausau and La Crosse. Every day we strive to see the face of Christ in those we serve.

Recently I had a phone call from one of those we serve and I spent about ten minutes just listening to him tell me about some of the current "concerns" in his life. I don't think I actually spoke more than four or five words. At the end of our "conversation" he said thanks for listening and taking the time to talk to him. He said, "I really appreciate talking to you about things." Perhaps sometimes it's not the face of Christ that is manifested to us, but His voice.

Servant of God Dorothy Day once asked Ade Bethune, the artist/illustrator for the Catholic Worker newspaper, to do an illustration of a story from one of Dorothy's favorite saints, St. Francis de Sales. It seems that Francis's servant had a habit of coming home drunk at night. One time he passed out at the front door where the saint found him, picked him up, and put him in his own bed while he sat up all night in a nearby chair and prayed for him. When the servant awoke to see St. Francis there serenely praying for him, he mended his ways and never drank again. Dorothy loved the story because of the many alcoholics who came as guests to the Catholic Worker house. She needed a beautiful yet simple reminder that everyone who knocked at the door was Christ himself, no matter what their condition or appearance.

I'm always amazed and humbled by the goodness of so many of you who through your generosity partner with us in serving others. It is a privilege and honor to serve the people of God at Catholic Charities. It is a joy to speak simply and from the heart about how Jesus makes His presence known in our lives.

Sincerely yours in Service,

Deacon Richard Sage
Executive Director



In 2013, Catholic Charities provided services to those in need across our diocese. We are very grateful to all who assisted us with our mission of promoting human dignity by alleviating poverty, strengthening individuals and families, and seeing Christ in those who come through our door.



At the end of 2013, Bill walked into our office asking for utility assistance. With winter so cold, he was running out of propane and needed help. He said we had assisted him in 2011. We checked and verified; “yes” we had helped him; however he found himself once again in need and finding comfort in our previous assistance, came back to our door.

Through our community resources and the generosity of utility appeal donors, Bill was able to once again have a warm place to live. Before he left, we asked if he needed any other help such as food or clothes and his response was “No”. He wanted us to help others who might need it more than him. He replied that he could go into the woods and hunt for something to eat. He stressed over and over, I will be back when I receive my disability. I will pay Catholic Charities back.

Even though we assured Bill that there was no need to pay us back, in early 2014, there was a knock on our front door. It was Bill. He had received his SSDI approval and handed us a check for \$332. This included the \$160 from 2011 and the recent amount of \$172. He said, “I told you I would come back to pay you, so now please help someone else”.

Holly, a US citizen, and Ricky met while she was a teacher in Spain. Ricky would see her everyday when he took his little brother to school. But it was at their church that their conversations first started and a relationship emerged. In time their relationship grew. Ricky obtained a visitor’s visa, and together Holly and Ricky flew to the United States to meet her family. After they arrived, Holly learned of recent difficulties that had fallen upon her family. It was during this time that Ricky and Holly discovered their lives did have a permanent course together, and they had the blessings of their families. They were married in September 2013.

It was also in September that Ricky and Holly came to Catholic Charities and trusted us with another important service they needed in their lives. They did not want to complete their roundtrip to Spain, but rather to stay in the United States to be close to Holly’s family and begin a life together.

This is just one story. There are thousands of people without immigration status living in the Diocese of La Crosse. Catholic Charities has successfully assisted hundreds of these families from all over the world to attain status to live here without danger of deportation. At Catholic Charities, we feel fortunate to have this opportunity to carry out the Gospel’s call of service to our neighbor. This is a long-standing call, and we draw inspiration from Leviticus 19:34.

“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love the alien as yourself for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

In 2014, Ricky got his green card!



November 2013 was an exciting time for Catholic Charities. With the help of the community, our Wausau office moved all of our programs and the Community Warming Center into one new location. This not only allowed us to offer shower and laundry services, but our St. Lawrence Community Service (SLCS) Financial Wellness Advocates were there to meet with clients when they were ready to try to find a way out of homelessness.

Daniel had been a warming center guest off and on all winter. Through choices he had made, he had found himself unemployed and homeless, and not sure where to turn. After coming to the center, he met Michelle, our SLCS advocate. She was able to meet with him periodically throughout the winter. By the time the warming center season ended, Michelle had encouraged Daniel to find employment and helped arrange housing to start him on a new journey.



2013 Services provided...because you were there!

34	Birth parents were supported through pregnancy to live birth through our pregnancy support program.
36	Children found forever families through our birth parent, relative and international adoption programs.
309	Immigration Clients from over 31 different countries received legal services in their quest for U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.
537	Individuals throughout the southwestern part of the diocese received confidential and supportive assistance with budgeting their fixed income to meet their basic needs while planning for future goals through our Representative Payee Program.
6,119	Families and individuals benefited from the encouragement and instruction received through our Post Adoption Resource Program.
6,961	Individuals and families received assistance with charitable outreach, advocacy or financial education and enrichment through St. Lawrence Community Services.
16,827	Sheltered nights of service were provided to the many poor, hurting, homeless, and often "faceless" people in our communities through our La Crosse and Wausau Community Warming Centers and the Sojourner House in Eau Claire.
22,329	Volunteer hours were provided to the various programs and offices across the diocese that help Catholic Charities provide help and hope to those in need.
35,488	Meals were served to our community homeless facilities guests in Eau Claire, La Crosse and Wausau.
39,812	Hours of service were provided to students with behavioral disorders, autism spectrum, and other developmental disabilities to help them stay in their homes and be successful in school with the help of our Disability Services Program.

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Mission Statement

**Catholic Charities of
the Diocese of La Crosse
proclaims Christ's Gospel
of Life and promotes
human dignity by
alleviating poverty and
strengthening individuals
and families.**



In grateful appreciation of its benefactors, Catholic Charities is pleased to acknowledge your gifts. It is through this financial support that Catholic Charities is able to continue its care to those in need in the Diocese of La Crosse. We compile the lists in our annual report with care. If you find your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our apology. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent and we would be grateful if you will notify us so our records will be correct in the future. Unfortunately space would not allow us to list all of our generous donors. To see a complete list, please go to www.cclse.org.



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Wausau Community Development Block Grant
Wells Fargo Homeownership Grants
William Cherek Charitable Fund
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation (WPS)
Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus
Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation
Xcel Energy

2013 Finances

ASSETS

	2013
Current Assets (cash, accounts receivable, prepaids)	966,907
Property & Equipment (net of depreciation)	545,710
Other Assets (assets whose use are limited)	1,667,733
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	4,034,883
TOTAL ASSETS	7,215,233

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

	2013
Current Liabilities (accounts payable, deferred revenues)	1,175,899
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,207,157
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	792,736
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	4,039,441
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	7,215,233

2013 REVENUE

Program Fees	2,204,980
Contributions & Grants	1,907,638
Investment & Other Income	251,982
TOTAL	4,364,600

2013 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Adoption Services	526,856
Community Homeless Facilities	396,695
Disability Services	1,699,651
Domestic Abuse	54,154
Fundraising & Development	300,157
General & Administration	4,907
Legal & Immigration Assistance	192,262
Disaster Assistance	10,861
St. Lawrence Community Services	1,038,251
TOTAL	4,223,794



"There but for fortune, go you and I"
a reflection by Deacon Dave Ashenbrenner

I worked Monday nights at the warming center from the time it would open in the evening until all the guests were gone in the morning. The first night I worked - three days after the center opened - we had four guests. Talking quietly to one of the other workers and listening to the sounds of snoring, words to a song from back in the '60's started running through my mind. "There but for fortune, go you and I." One of the volunteers I worked with was Angie, a college student.

The following Monday I was walking to the door of the warming center when I met Angie also coming in. We went through the first doors and waited for someone to let us in the other door. A lady came up who we did not know, saw us standing there, and said, "I'm sorry. You'll have to wait until we're open." We then told her that we were volunteers, not guests. The lady apologized profusely for mistaking us for the homeless. I then thought, "No, she shouldn't be apologizing to me. But now, she should be apologizing to them, to the homeless." Because when we start to think that what they are and should be apologized for then we take away their dignity and lose ours in doing it. "There but for fortune, go you and I".

When people back in Galloway ask what the homeless are like, I have a hard time answering them. One night we had 14 guests and as near as I could figure it, there were 14 different reasons. "There but for fortune, go you and I".

I feel grateful and blessed for the things I have. When we have been given good health, both mental and physical, fortunate circumstances, a good family and a roof over our heads, we should be willing to share that good fortune and remember those who have not received these benefits. "There but for fortune, go you and I".

We invite you to join us in serving others!
Visit our website at www.cclse.org or call
1-888-212-HELP today to learn how you
can become involved. Donate and/or
volunteer today!



Diocesan Annual Appeal



Accredited



OFFICE LOCATIONS

EAU CLAIRE
448 N. Dewey Street
Eau Claire, 54703
(715) 832-6644

LA CROSSE
3710 East Ave. South
La Crosse, 54601
(608) 782-0710

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
115 E. Perry Street
Prairie du Chien, 53821
(608) 326-1616

WAUSAU
540 South Third Avenue
Wausau, 54401
(715) 849-3311