



Diocese of Arlington

The Mission



Nationally Accredited



Member Catholic Charities USA



United Way/CFC # 8055

SUMMER 2005

Thanks to Volunteers

Dedicated volunteers provide invaluable support to Catholic Charities' programs throughout the year. Their generosity was recognized at an April 17 volunteer appreciation celebration at St. Thomas More Cathedral, with Bishop Paul S. Loverde celebrating Mass, followed by a reception in Burke Hall.

Bishop Loverde said, "I believe our volunteers reflect Christ as they go to reach out, seek out, and serve God's children." He thanked all volunteers and then congratulated those receiving special recognition as Catholic Charities' Executive Director Stephen Luteran described their contributions.

More than 170 people were in attendance as the volunteers, nominated by Catholic Charities' program directors, were presented with beautiful icons in appreciation of their service. The icon image was Christ washing the feet of the apostles.

Fr. C. Donald Howard was



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

Fr. C. Donald Howard (left), who provides free office space to Catholic Charities staff at his parish in Sterling, is thanked by Executive Director Stephen Luteran.



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

Attending the volunteer appreciation celebration were (left to right) Ann Melmer, Kevin Sullivan, Mike Dante, Elsie Sullivan, Richard Lindenauer, Don Templeman, Mike Turk, Bishop Loverde, Fr. C. Donald Howard, Michele Ziny, Stephen Luteran, Anton Ziny, and Charlotte Ziny.

thanked for his support of Catholic Charities' satellite office at his parish at Christ the Redeemer in Loudoun County. Michele Ziny and her family were thanked for their faithful help in preparing and serving the evening meal at Christ House.

Ann Melmer was recognized for her clerical assistance and enthusiastic support at Catholic Charities' administrative office. Volunteers recognized for their work at the Fredericksburg District Office were Melonie Peters, who manages the "baby needs" closet, and Richard Lindenauer, who helps file insurance claims for clients.

Mike Dante was singled out for his prison ministry in juvenile detention centers, where he visits troubled youth. Foster parents thanked for their many years of dedicated care of infants and young children were Elsie and Kevin Sullivan and Mary and Paul Filipowicz.

Valuable volunteers at St. Martin de Porres Senior Center

included Don Templeman, a well-known ESL teacher, and Mike Turk, who helps with computer systems and overall needs. Gary Andrew was thanked for managing the Christ House food pantry and serving as an all-purpose handyman. Psychologist Whit Schuyler was thanked for serving as a consultant at Family Services, and attorney Joseph Russo was acknowledged for lending his expertise to Hogar Hispano.

The event was organized by Catholic Charities' Anne Murphy to coincide with National Volunteer Week, April 17-23.

Concelebrants at the Mass were Fr. Howard; Fr. Robert J. Rippy, rector of the Cathedral; and Fr. Philip S. Majka, president of the Fredericksburg District Office Advisory Committee.

Pass it on!
After you've read this newsletter, please give it to a friend.

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



Stephen Luteran

FROM THE DESK OF Stephen Luteran

When I first heard the news of the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2, I was home in Pittsburgh visiting my parents. Hearing the news, I felt a tremendous loss in my heart because he had made a profound impact on my life.

I was very young when Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope. I remember my mother running down the street in 1978 yelling, "We have a Polish Pope." This was very exciting for all of us of Polish descent. In fact, my grandmother came from his hometown.

I consider John Paul II the

first Pope I really knew and followed. Although I never met him personally, I always felt very close to him because of his witness and writings. He was a remarkable man, who is now often called John Paul the Great.

I believe it was through Divine Providence that I was at home with my parents when I heard the news of his death. I felt that I had come full circle.

Two things that I will always remember are John Paul II's first words to us after his investiture as Pope—"Be not afraid to let Christ into your lives"—and the message of his first encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis* (1979): "The redeemer of mankind, Jesus Christ, is the center of the universe and of history." This is the platform from which he worked. No one can deny his courageous

witness. He showed us the example of Christian fearlessness by traveling the globe and proclaiming Christ the Lord. He also showed us his conviction that Christ is indeed the center of the universe and history.

This is important for our work at Catholic Charities. In many ways, everyone associated with Catholic Charities must not be afraid and should place their trust in the Lord. We should walk securely knowing that Jesus is the center of the universe and of history—both public and personal history.

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

Sullivans Named Finalists for CCUSA's Volunteer Award



Photo by June Marino

Elsie and Kevin Sullivan

Elsie and Kevin Sullivan, long-time foster parents for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, were named as 2 of 12 finalists for Catholic Charities USA's National Volunteer of the Year Award for 2005. The Sullivans recently "retired" from foster-parenting after serving for 18 years and caring for 60 children.

Reflecting on their work as foster parents, Elsie said, "All the children are different—you have to key in on their little personalities" and "you have to make sure you help them develop good self-esteem." Some of the infants and young children that Elsie and Kevin cared for had special needs and had to be taken to physical therapy or psychological therapy as well as given extra attention.

Once the children were ready to leave foster care, "transitioning" was an important process, according to Elsie, who would work with the adoptive parents or the birth mother to help them learn the child's habits and personality. Elsie would also stress the value of "holding, cuddling, and soft talking" to ensure an emotional "good start" for the child.

Blessed with three children of their own, the Sullivans waited to become foster parents until their children were in their early teens so that they could help out.

Catholic Charities thanks the Sullivans for their selfless dedication to caring for infants and young children.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Hogar Hispano was pleased to receive an Exxon Mobil grant of \$2000 to fund a summer intern for its ESL program. Hogar also gratefully received an \$8,000 grant from the Dollar General foundation to support ESL services.

- In March, Catholic Charities thankfully received \$28,329.82 from the 2004 Fannie Mae "Help the Homeless" Walkathon. Catholic Charities was one of the agencies that walkers could designate as the recipient of their contributions.

- The elementary students of Queen of Apostles School in Alexandria took up a collection for the needy at their Friday Mass. Catholic Charities thanks them for their check of \$237.93, received March 17.

- In April, Fred Wenger of Bishop Ireton High School worked with fellow Boy Scouts

St. Martin's Offers Geriatric Consultations



Norine Swaminatha (left), geriatric outreach worker at St. Martin's, consults with a senior and her caregiver.

Any senior adult or family of a senior may make an appointment for a free geriatric consultation at St. Martin de Porres Senior Center by calling 703-751-2766. The consultation includes assessment of the senior's needs; information about home care and long-term care; help with insurance forms and Medicare or Medicaid eligibility questions; general information; and referral to community resources.

The assessment can be scheduled at the senior's home or at St. Martin's in Alexandria, where Catholic Charities has offered elderly services for the past 28 years.

on Saturdays to improve the grounds at St. Martin's. They demolished an old bee-infested shed and removed brush and debris from areas around the parking lot. They also weeded, trimmed hedges, planted flowers, and applied mulch to beautify the grounds. Thanks to the Scouts.

- For the 4th year in a row, AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) selected St. Martin's as the site for its annual day of service. On May 12, 25 AARP staffers painted interior rooms and outdoor sheds. They also did general yard work and donated all the painting materials. St. Martin's says "thank you."

- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funds will help support Catholic Charities' emergency assistance program in FY2005 and 2006. The program received \$16,598 by applying through the County of Fairfax and \$2,623 by applying through the City of Alexandria.

- Jack Jezreel, founder and author of the *JustFaith* curriculum, was special guest at the Spring gathering of Catholic Charities' parish liaison network. More than 130 attendees came to hear the well-known Jezreel speak at St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax on May 25.

Sister Marie Victoire Visits Catholic Charities



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

Sr. Marie Victoire (second from right), accompanied by Sr. Constancia Parcasio (left) and Sr. Maria Josephine Valenton, is greeted by Stephen Luteran (far left), executive director, and Michael O'Rourke, associate director of finance and administration.

Catholic Charities welcomed a very special visitor on May 27 when Sr. Marie Victoire, superior general of the Sisters of Notre Dame de la Salette (SNDS), arrived from Grenoble, France, to meet with her sisters and consult with Bishop Loverde. Catholic Charities has been very fortunate to have Sr. Constancia Parcasio, SNDS, serving as director of prison ministry for the past four and a half years.

Citizenship Workshops Get the Wheels Turning



Photo by Beth Fitzpatrick

Hogar Hispano staffers Jodi Nemser-Abrahams (left) and Ken Balbuena help citizenship applicants at an April Citizenship Workshop.

Completing an application form for U.S. citizenship can be a daunting task—the 10-page “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400) has many questions and can even pose challenges of comprehension to a person whose first language is English.

The Citizenship Assistance Workshops offered by Catholic Charities’ Hogar Hispano aim to simplify the application process. At an April 30 work-

shop, organized by Hogar staffer Ismael Husseini at the Arlington Mills Community Center, 73 individuals were assisted in their preparation of Form N-400.

The applicants were advised ahead of time of the documents they had to bring. Then, at the workshop, they passed through a series of stations where different parts of the form were filled in. They had their photo and fingerprints taken and had their

completed form reviewed by an attorney.

Hogar also provides help for the next steps in the process—the official interview and the citizenship test—by offering citizenship classes, ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, and a new combined course called “English and Citizenship.” These courses and the workshop are all available at minimal fees.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled for July 9, September 17, October 29, and December 3. Call 703-534-9805, ext. 237, to register.

The Mission, Summer 2005
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Diocese of Arlington

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