



## NEWS RELEASE

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Catholic Charities of  
the Diocese of Arlington  
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### **Catholic Charities Ball Celebrates an Evening of Fun while Giving**



(Left photo) Cassie and Shawn McLaughlin, Chair of Special Gifts Committee, dance the night away. (Photo by Jenifer Morris )

(Top photo) Catholic Charities' Executive Director Stephen Luteran thanks Ball Committee Co-Chairs Betsy Riley (left) and Betsy Lohmann for their organizing efforts. (Photo by Jenifer Morris )

As a final fling before the start of Lent, supporters of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington celebrated February 1 at the 26<sup>th</sup> Catholic Charities Ball. Magnolia and hydrangea blossoms surrounded antique lanterns, brightening the dinner tables to create a “Charleston at Twilight” ambiance. Once again, the Ball filled Tyson’s Ritz-Carlton Grand Ballroom to capacity.

Planning for the Ball began a year ago, led by Ball Co-Chairs Betsy Lohmann and Betsy Riley, with the help of over 90 volunteers. This year’s fund-raising goal was met thanks to the

dedicated efforts of Special Gifts Chair Shawn McLaughlin and his committee. Over the last 25 years, the Ball has contributed more than \$6 million to Catholic Charities.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde greeted guests and led the invocation for the gala evening of dining, music, dancing, and prize drawings. He said, “How good it is for us to be here, sharing one another’s company and deepening the bond that unites us: our genuine concern for the poor and needy.” Catholic Charities provides programs such as Christ House Shelter, Children’s Services, Family Services, prison ministry, St. Martin de Porres Elderly Services, Hogar Hispano, and emergency assistance.

The Bishop also presented the James J. Matthews Legacy award to Peter and Judy Davis. The award, now in its second year, is given to those who “embody the spirit and long-time commitment to Catholic Charities” shown by the late Mr. Matthews, who helped establish the Ball in 1982. Peter Davis has served as president of Catholic Charities’ Board of Directors, Judy Davis has served as Ball Committee Chair, and both have supported the agency’s programs for many years.

Mount Saint Mary’s University President Thomas H. Powell presented Catholic Charities with a Mount St. Mary’s Bicentennial Award, which is given to an organization showing “commitment for excellence in building communities in service to others.” Executive Director Stephen Luteran accepted the award for the agency.

Among the many prize winners was Pete Dolan, receiving the grand prize of a pearl necklace with citrine pendant donated by Paul and Kathy Pasteur of Chas. Schwartz & Son Jewelers. The evening festivities continued until midnight as guests danced to the music of Odyssey.

In a related effort, Diocesan students raised more than \$15,000 during the second annual “Catholic Schools Care about Catholic Charities Week,” a program started by the Ball Committee to assist the poor in the Diocese. High school students from Bishop O’Connell, Georgetown Visitation, Gonzaga, Yorktown, Paul VI, and Thomas Jefferson also assisted at the Ball.



Bishop Paul S. Loverde thanks Ball organizers (left to right) Shawn McLaughlin, Betsy Riley, Betsy Lohmann, Julie Theobald, and Lee Morris. (Photo by Jenifer Morris )



Bishop Paul S. Loverde chats with Peter Davis who, along with his wife Judy (left), received the James J. Matthews Legacy award. (Photo by Jenifer Morris )

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*Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is a nonprofit social service agency that provides assistance through a soup kitchen/food pantry, emergency shelter, emergency assistance, counseling, foster care, services for the elderly, immigrant assistance, services for the disabled,*

*crisis pregnancy counseling, adoption services, parish social ministry, and prison ministry. It was founded in 1947, is fully accredited, and serves twenty-one counties and seven independent cities in northern Virginia. More information is available at [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net). Catholic Charities helps those in need regardless of their race or creed.*