



CATHOLIC *Diocese of Fresno* CHARITIES

Dear Friend,

For most of us, our lives are filled with work, family, friends and faith – even if from a distance. Our *normal* is having a family to go home to at night, a warm bed and a refrigerator filled with food. But for thousands of people right here in our community, *normal* is something very different.

The spectrum between the two is so extreme yet it might only take a single life event to catapult us from one side to the other. For those who feel like they have no one and for those living in crisis, the feeling of hopelessness is greater now more than ever. They live with a constant yearning to belong, searching for someone who will listen, who will care and who will make them feel as though they matter.

For more than 250,000 people last year, that hope was found through Catholic Charities. We saw a 43% increase over 2019 in those desperately needing assistance with food, clothing, housing support and more.

The season of Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. These forty days are a time of renewed hope. We are called to let go of our own desires and focus on the needs of those who are less fortunate – to be more dependent on God to meet our needs while also tending to the needs of others.

We ask that you please send a donation in the enclosed envelope to help those most vulnerable. May you always remember whenever you feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty or welcome a stranger, you are encountering the Risen Christ.

May your Lenten journey be filled with the blessing of Christ's love.

Peace and blessings to you always.

Jeff Negrete
Executive Director

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