



# CATHOLIC *Diocese of Fresno* CHARITIES

Dear Friend,

*Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...* inalienable rights to which all of us are born with. Although they may wrongfully be violated or abused, they can never be taken away.

Since early March, we have all been affected by this world pandemic to varying degrees as we struggle to continue with our lives and our own personal journeys in the pursuit of happiness.

The spectrum of how this virus has affected us is far and wide. From the inconvenience and frustration of waiting in long lines while shopping; to losing a job we've been dedicated to for so many years; to being unable to attend mass or the funeral for a beloved friend or family member.

For many, our pursuit of happiness has been derailed dealing with COVID-19 as we question how long this will last and wonder when our sense of normalcy will return.

Perhaps now more than ever, happiness is a struggle. The challenge for families and seniors living alone are magnified in simply trying to put food on the table for a meal. There are those who have lost jobs or become riddled with debt. The sense of well-being, joy or contentment seems unattainable as new struggles continue to arise.

Though the pursuit of happiness has many elements of struggle for us all, there are many who do not possess the foundation of family or friends to comfort them during troubled times.

At Catholic Charities, 40% of our clients during COVID-19 have never walked through our doors until now. Many of them have never had to ask for help before. They are on the verge of losing hope but still... in pursuit of happiness.

It is because of you that they're able to keep fighting for that happiness. That they have somewhere to turn and somewhere to go where they're met with open arms. That they're able to stay in their homes and keep their children fed. And that they still have hope in tomorrow and faith in the goodness of others.

In our great country, in America, summer is upon us and we will soon celebrate Independence Day. Our hope and prayer is that there will always be those in our community willing to support our neighbors in crisis. To treat every man, woman and child with human dignity and to always reflect the love of one nation under God.

Thank you for your support of Catholic Charities. To you: blessings of gratitude, of safety, of liberty, and of love.

Happy Independence Day.

Jeff Negrete, Executive Director

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

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