



# CATHOLIC *Diocese of Fresno* CHARITIES

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

A picture perfect table, surrounded by loved ones, in a warm cozy home is how many people envision their Thanksgiving holiday. The reality, however, is that with the pandemic, devastating forest fires, political turmoil and personal crises, this Thanksgiving holiday will look very different for all of us. These are truly challenging times.

At Catholic Charities, we hear many cry out in desperation as they attempt to cope with feelings of fear and hopelessness. The obstacles surrounding food insecurity, housing, unemployment, mental illness, access to health care, and connection to our faith has never been greater.

Our phone continues to ring and each time, it's a different story. As difficult as it is to hear day after day, it also fills me with a tremendous sense of gratitude. Gratitude towards God who put me in this position to help, and gratitude towards all of you for empowering us to continue saying "yes" when our neighbors walk through our doors looking for a glimmer of hope.

You are always there for us and you allow us to continue being there for them. For this, I am eternally thankful.

Over 165,000 people served this year, 2.5 million pounds of food distributed, nearly 100 people helped with rental and mortgage assistance, and over 30 communities served throughout the Diocese of Fresno from Merced to Kern counties. Because of you.

As the cold months of winter begin to creep in, we know there will continue to be challenges in the days and months ahead. But through our faith and through your support, we will continue to adapt, pivot when needed and open our arms and our hearts to those in the greatest of need.

Please know today and always that I have tremendous gratitude for you. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those less fortunate. Thank you for your prayers. And thank you for allowing us to be the hope in the world for so many.

May God bless you and your family this Thanksgiving and always,

Jeff Negrete  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fresno