



CATHOLIC  
*Diocese of Fresno*  
CHARITIES

Dear Friend,

For many of us, Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate with family, watch football, and enjoy a homemade meal around the dinner table with loved ones. Yet, as Christians we know that it's meaning is much deeper than that. It seems appropriate that before we move forward into "the most wonderful time of the year" that we take a few moments to respond to God's goodness and grace with gratitude and appreciation for His tremendous blessings and provisions in our lives.

However, having a "thankful spirit" doesn't always come naturally.

We see so many walking through our doors at Catholic Charities who are struggling. They aren't sure where their next meal is coming from. They shiver in the absence of a warm winter coat. Diapers are in short supply because of the more pressing need of paying a rent or a PG&E bill. Since becoming the Executive Director of Catholic Charities three years ago, I have found that those we serve are often some of the most thankful people I know. While many of us live our lives trying to focus on whether our cup is half full or half empty, others are simply thankful they have a cup.

It's the spirit of thanksgiving that provides them with the capacity to hold onto hope. And that hope is provided by people like you.

This Thanksgiving, I am filled with a tremendous sense of gratitude. I feel extremely blessed that God put me in this position to help our brothers and sisters. I am thankful for you, for continuing to open your heart to meet the needs of others by sharing your blessings with those most vulnerable. For this I am eternally thankful.

God bless you and thanks be to God this Thanksgiving and always!

Jeff Negrete  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fresno