



Dear Friend,

As we enter into the celebration of the miracle of Christmas, I reflect on the Holy Family and that first Christmas. Mary and Joseph searched Bethlehem for safety, for warmth, for comfort... but "There was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7) when Jesus was born on that Holy Night. There was no hospitality, no welcome.

Unfortunately, the lack of room for Jesus continues in our world today. There is overcrowding in our minds as they're filled with news and information, our hearts with innumerable concerns, our schedules with things to do and places to go, electronic devices with emails, calls and messages... and the list goes on.

Here at Catholic Charities, this is the time of the year where calls pour in with questions over how we might be able to help those who are struggling throughout our 8-county Diocese. This is the time of the year I find myself thinking of Mary and Joseph as I see those in our lines looking for many of the same things the Holy family searched for that first Christmas night - warmth, safety, rest, shelter, food, and hope.

Because of your continued support, Catholic Charities is a place where people are always welcome, where there is always hospitality and where there is always room. Because of your generosity, this is a place that is warm, that is safe, that provides rest for the weary, food for the hungry, and hope for hundreds of thousands each year. It is a place full of people eager and ready to receive them - seeing Jesus Christ in the face of all who cross our path.

With all the distractions in our personal lives, I thank you for continually making room for Jesus in your heart. Thank you for allowing others to feel the love of Christ this Christmas season and beyond. Thank you for your never ending support of Catholic Charities.

From our entire team, may the Spirit of Christmas be with you always. Merry Christmas.

Jeff Negrete
Executive Director

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