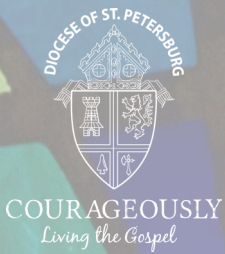




Catholic Charities
Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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Because of your generosity, thousands in need have had their lives improved as they are lifted up in dignity. We cannot list all of you, but we thank you all equally.

**We strive for an error-free list. If we made a mistake, omitted you entirely, or you don't wish to be listed in the future, we apologize. Please contact us to let us know.*





About Us

Background

Catholic Charities was created in 1945 by Bishop Joseph P Hurley as the Tampa Office for Charity. It was operated under the auspices of the Diocese of St. Augustine as one of three regional offices, collectively known as Diocesan Catholic Charities, under the charter of the Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. It was created to relieve the burden on Catholic parishes which were struggling to meet the needs of the poor in their communities at the end of World War II.

The present Catholic Charities was created as a nonprofit corporation in June 1968 when the Diocese of St. Petersburg was established reporting to Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin. Since then Catholic Charities has evolved under seven Executive Directors and four more Bishops, including our present Bishop, the Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes.

Our mission is driven by the Gospel mandate to serve those most in need by making manifest Christ's corporal works of mercy. Catholic Charities continues to provide the highest quality of social services designed to preserve families and promote self-sufficiency and social justice while operating three ministries under the Ministries of Mercy umbrella: *Foundations of Life, Friends in Need, and Shelters of Hope.*

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities serves with charity and compassion to promote the sanctity and dignity of all people with God. As a member of the Church, Catholic Charities offers hope by helping those in need and unites with others in service.

Value Statement

Catholic Charities makes a Commitment to Serve all people with Respect, Compassion and Cooperation in the spirit of unifying God.

Our Board of Trustees

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Catholic Charities would like to thank Sister Dorothy Dwyer and Mrs. Karen Reich for their service to the Board.

Our Programs and Locations

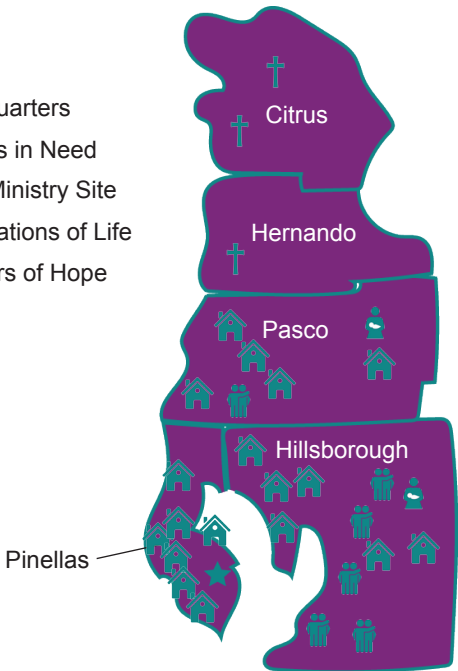


15,125
Total Clients
Served



197,437
Total Meals
Served

- ★ Headquarters
- 👤 Friends in Need
- ✝ Multi-Ministry Site
- 🏠 Foundations of Life
- 🏠 Shelters of Hope



Clients Served



Foundations of Life
Pregnancy Center
1,954

Project Rachel
(post-abortion counseling)
89

Catholic Charities
Adoption Services
249
13 adoptions



Homeless Shelter & Services
1,413

Affordable Family Housing
1,889

Special Needs Housing
301

Elderly Housing
1,363



Immigration & Refugee
Services
2,174 & 141

Medical & Respite Care
1,193 & 80

Financial & Life Skills
Counseling
700

Outreach Center
Assistance
1,808

Disaster Relief Services
1,445

Angel Awards

Allegany Franciscan Ministries

Allegany Franciscan Ministries is a non-profit Catholic organization rooted in the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, a community of vowed women religious. Since awarding its first grant in 1998, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has invested nearly \$87.5 million in nearly 1,500 organizations serving those most in need in these communities. The organization's Common Good Initiative, a long-term, community-driven, place-based effort mobilizing communities toward better health and wellness, was launched in 2014. One of the Common Good communities is Wimauma, Florida. In addition to many other efforts in this community, led by Eileen Coogan, President & CEO, Allegany has partnered with Catholic Charities many times and most recently funded our Free Medical Clinics programs - giving \$150,000 over two-year period. With this support, we can provide much-needed medical care to people of Hillsborough County who would not otherwise have access to health care.

Callee Condon

Callee's "Bikes for Buddies" started in 2011 to help kids living in homeless shelters get a bike for Christmas. The 13-year-old gives away freshly squeezed lemonade (her secret recipe) and with the donations purchases new and used bikes and helmets for children who couldn't otherwise afford them. Callee has donated over 500 bikes since then and nearly 100 new bikes, 60 new helmets, and over 60 used bikes to the children of Catholic Charities' San Jose Mission and Pinellas Village. She was recognized as a 2016 BayNews 9 Hero of the Year. On why she started her bike ministry, Callee says,



"I think all children should be able to have a bike of their own to ride. I love riding my bike and can't imagine not having one to ride all around, whenever I want! So, I want to provide as many bikes as I can for kids that need one in my community..."

We are grateful that Callee chose Catholic Charities' young clients to be among the recipients of her bike program. You can learn more about Callee and her work online at www.calleesbikesforbuddies.com or by following her on her Facebook page, @bikes4buddies.



Patricia Safuto

After Pat retired, she immediately sought her next challenge. She wanted to volunteer and immediately thought of Catholic Charities. That was five years ago. Pat assists with the Respite Program (provides activities for those suffering from Alzheimer's or other memory-related illnesses and permits their caregivers to take a break from their responsibilities). She also runs the front desk and answers phones at our Hernando Outreach Center in Spring Hill which is home to one of our Foundations of Life Pregnancy Centers, counselors who assist homeless or near-homeless individuals and families with temporary housing, as well as disaster assistance, and the respite care program. Pat was instrumental in helping develop the hotline and has used her prior experience in data input to assist the Respite program. Many of our clients come to us in a fragile emotional state, and Pat's incredible compassion and understanding sets her, and us, apart. Pat really listens to our clients and does her best to help them, and that approach is soothing and uplifting to those in need. When asked why she spends so many hours helping others (she also volunteers with her parish Society of St. Vincent de Paul), Pat's answer was one we often hear from our volunteers:

"I feel like I get more out of it than the clients do! It gives me a sense of purpose [because] I'm doing something worthwhile. I think it makes me a better person."



Clockwise from Left: Ms. Pat Safuto, Miss Callee Connon (& parents), Allegany Franciscan Ministries (CEO Eileen Coogan, Sr. Jeanne and Sr. Marlene)



Courageously Living: Foundations of Life

They were two women, not unlike many mother-daughter duos who stopped by to inquire about Catholic Charities programs at the 2018 Spirit FM Women's Conference held on September 22nd. But this pair was unique! In discussing their appreciation for Catholic Charities, they introduced themselves as daughter, Katie, and mother, Jane. But that wasn't the surprise. The surprise was Katie had been adopted...28 years earlier through...Catholic Charities Adoption Services!

Difficulty Conceiving

How did this happen? Both mother and daughter agreed to share their story the following week. Ed and Jane LaRose were parishioners of St. Paul in Tampa who were unsuccessful having children. Jane's desire for a child led her and Ed to undergo numerous tests. Ultimately, Ed had corrective surgery in the summer of 1986 but was told it might take five years for the surgery to "take hold". Finally, Ed and Jane consulted with their (now retired) pastor, Fr. Austin Mullen, who recommended they contact Catholic Charities about adopting a child.

Two Adoptions and One Natural Birth

Ed and Jane had their child. HOWEVER, it wasn't through Catholic Charities and it wasn't Katie. They used a private attorney to adopt their son Christopher on November 13, 1986 at three days old. But Ed and Jane wanted a sibling for Chris. They returned to Catholic Charities when Chris was 18 months old and met Bob Disbennett. Over two years later, in June of 1990, while the LaRose's were on vacation, Bob called and said there was a baby girl whose mother had decided to make an adoption plan for her now six-month old baby. Ed and Jane were ready to race home, but Bob "assured us we didn't have to cut our trip short." They explained to 3-1/2-year old Chris that "he'd have a little sister" upon their return.



Katie, born on December 24, 1989, was placed in Jane and Ed's arms and became a member of the LaRose family on June 15, 1990. Told her biological father was Peruvian, Katie, who had blonde hair and blue eyes, was subsequently shown by a DNA test to be a mixture of English, German and French.

As so often happens when couples adopt, they soon conceive a child thereafter. Jane and Ed welcomed a natural born son into the family on November 1, 1991. Said Ed, "God made a miracle. God has a sense of humor."



To Know or Not to Know

Katie has no firm memory of the exact time she learned she was adopted. Jane and her husband shared as long as she can remember the story that “mommy and daddy prayed, and we got Chris. We prayed and called Catholic Charities and we got you.” The subject of adoption was not hidden as it so often is. Jane emphasized that they were wanted and were loved. Katie says, “my parents had always been open and talked to us about from as long as I can remember. I came from another family so always knew it...all three of us were your children and still loved.”

As Katie prepared to enter college (she later graduated from Florida State University) she thought about seeking more information on her biological family. Paperwork showed she had two biological brothers (both also adopted). With the help of her parents, they even went so far as to register with the state adoption registry, but “never heard anything back and I just sort of let it be.”

A Life Filled with Music

If Katie's life has had a theme: it is her love of music! She graduated from FSU with a major in Choral Music Education. She is expecting to complete a Masters' degree program in the same discipline in December 2019. She began her life's work teaching elementary music in the Pinellas County school system (K-5 public school in St. Petersburg). In addition to teaching music, she sings and plays four instruments – piano, guitar, violin (she says she “dabbles” and is working on improving her skill) and flute – and is a vocalist (she calls it her “fifth instrument”). This love for music is both innate and encouraged. At three years old, Jane recognized Katie's musical talents. She and Ed cultivated this love for music, exposing Katie to opera, symphonic concerts, and musicals. Katie later performed in China and New York City's famed Carnegie Hall with her High School Choral Group, and sang at Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. While at FSU, Katie performed and was able to re-connect with Bob Disbennett, the Catholic Charities adoption employee. The LaRose and Disbennett families became close friends, met and dined frequently on visits to Tallahassee, while Bob and his wife attended many of Katie's performances.

Presently, Katie performs with two ensembles: Festival Singers of Florida and the Tampa Bay Master Chorale. She is also active with church choirs, singing with the St. Jude Cathedral Choir (Fr. Joe Waters, the former rector, is a family friend), occasionally at St. Catherine of Siena, and with the St. Timothy Hand Bell Choir.

Katie's has been the ideal adoption story. Loved enough by a birthmother who made a choice she felt was in her daughter's best interest. Cared for lovingly during the first six months of her life by foster parents who are still family friends. And ultimately living the rest of her life as the first and only daughter of Jane and Ed LaRose. They loved and nurtured her and supported her in her dreams. Katie summed it up best when she said:

“I never had a question of my mom and my dad being my mother and my father. Even if I was adopted they always made sure I was loved.”





Courageously Living: Friends in Need

While the Tampa Bay area was spared the ravages of Hurricane Michael, many of our brothers and sisters in the Florida panhandle were not as the Category 5 storm destroyed much of Panama City Beach and Mexico Beach. Many Floridians have come to the aid of those in need with cash gifts, while others helped more directly. One was a local parishioner who felt called to do more.

The Inspiration

Amanda Partilla is a third-generation Catholic. She and her husband, Griffin, along with their two children, Lorelei and Logan, are parishioners of Incarnation Catholic Church where her daughter attends sixth grade. Her 'courageous living' moment occurred while following news of the storm at work. As the storm strengthened, Amanda felt the Holy Spirit and decided "I need to do something!"

A Plan Takes Form

Amanda began by determining what was needed where. She called Catholic churches in Mexico Beach and the panhandle but was redirected to the Diocese of Tallahassee-Pensacola which in turn directed her to Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida. There, Amanda confirmed both the donation list and drop-off location. Armed with this information, she quickly realized "the hurricane survivors would need more than my Jeep could hold" and reached out to her mother, Joanne, who "has always made charitable work a cornerstone of her life", and who with her step-dad, Brandon, owns a 28-foot trailer! Said Amanda about her mother, she "instilled those values in me from my earliest memories" and "I knew she'd be onboard before I even called to ask." Joanne's version: "I was so proud...of her kindness and empathy towards those in need. It was an easy decision to drive our trailer up to the affected area to help."

With her mother and stepdad onboard, Amanda shared her vision with her husband and kids! No problem! "Griffin is passionate about charitable work and didn't hesitate before saying 'Of course! Let's make it happen.'" Lorelei was excited and "began brainstorming and making posters at the dinner table." Now they only needed the food items to take to the panhandle. After calling her daughter's school as well as several others, Amanda reached out to the Diocese of St. Petersburg and was directed to Catholic Charities for assistance. "I was amazed by the support of Catholic Charities in bringing the donation drive to the next level. They were invaluable in publicizing the drive, gathering donations and continually worked through logistics and planning with me."

The Trip

With the trailer loaded to its max capacity of 7,500 lbs. the family set off for the panhandle! During the trip they blew out a tire and spent a night at an RV park whose waterfront parking spots were buried in sand! As they arrived at the drop-off site at St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Panama City Beach, they found whole blocks of homes destroyed, people carrying their possessions, and electric and telephone poles broken like toothpicks. Amanda was struck, however, that "there was life in the ruin." Amidst the heartbreak and destruction, they saw



hope: people cleaning up debris and fixing their homes, utility workers replacing downed electric poles, and neighbors helping one another.

At St. Dominic's, Amanda was struck by the operation's efficiency and positivity: "The moment we stopped, a team of volunteers led by Tampa's Academy of the Holy Names' President, Arthur Raimo, began unloading and organizing donations. Within minutes the truck that took hours to fill was emptied! Amanda describes one of the most memorable interactions that occurred:



My "most powerful memory is of seeing a couple driving up in a truck looking understandably sad. A volunteer handed them a teddy bear from the donations and said, 'you look like you could use this' and the man started laughing right there. Lorelei understood why we were there. We couldn't fix what the hurricane had done, but we could help these people recover."

The Fulfillment of Courageous Living

Amanda is still amazed by the outpouring of community support in helping her realize her vision. "I cannot express how amazed I was by their support and action. I may have had the idea and organization, but this was, in every way, a team effort with each and every person contributing to the success." As Amanda reflects on the mission she and her family and friends undertook, she came away with the following lessons:

- **"My mission taught me to trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit."** While Amanda's first instinct was to help others, she doubted herself at times. Would we get enough donations? Did they even want or need us? "Then I'd get an email from the Catholic Charities rep telling me about a storeroom full of donations...or I'd see three tables of donations at Incarnation Catholic School...or I'd find boxes full of donations on my door step."
- **"I learned to share my faith more boldly."** Amanda worried that anti-Catholic prejudice would preclude people's assistance. "But I found people of all faiths willing to contribute without question." I was proud to say we were partnering with Catholic Charities and to share the amazing work they were doing for the survivors."
- **"I feel so much closer to God today."** Through this effort, Amanda witnessed many acts of kindness, community and love. "I felt the love of Christ every day through His people and I'm so thankful I could share that love with the community of Panama City."

Thank you, Amanda, for your witness and your example to all of us in courageously living the Gospel.



Courageously Living: Shelters of Hope

One of the established goals of the Diocesan vision, ***Courageously Living the Gospel*** (CLG), is to create 8 to 10 units of affordable housing throughout the Diocese.

One of the first steps taken in realizing that goal occurred on September 7, 2018 in Crystal River, Florida. Crystal River is a small town located in Central Citrus County – the northernmost county of the Diocese. It is here that Catholic Charities teamed up with the Diocese, on land owned by the Diocese that is being leased to Catholic Charities for the sum of one dollar per annum. The facility will be adjacent to additional Diocesan-owned land presently occupied by Daystar Life Center, an outreach ministry (thrift shop and food pantry) of St. Benedict Catholic Church.

Seeking to fill a need for housing in our community that can serve low income families and individuals, Bishop Gregory Parkes blessed the grounds where construction will soon begin on the apartments that will be known as St. Benedict Housing. This is the first “Shelter of Hope” to be built in Citrus County by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and is a step towards accomplishing the CLG affordable housing goal and is also consistent with one of Catholic Charities strategic initiatives to provide greater social services throughout the northernmost counties of the Diocese – Pasco, Hernando and Citrus.

Local leaders, from the public and private sectors, joined Bishop Parkes and other key supporters for the event. Father Ryszard Stradomski, pastor of St. Benedict Catholic Church, began the ceremony by offering the invocation. The crowd heard from several county officials. Catholic Charities President, Mr. Frank V. Murphy III, who as former BayCare Health CEO is knowledgeable about healthcare, introduced the guests, including Mr. Ernesto “Tito” Rubio, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Citrus County, of whom he said “Shelter, food, healthcare are all connected...without the support of health promotion and strengthening our people’s health other things don’t work too well.” For his part, Mr. Rubio reinforced his department’s commitment to this project and the homeless of Citrus County and echoed the importance of healthcare in ensuring people can maintain themselves in independent housing. “Forty-three percent of our households are living paycheck to paycheck. If they have a health problem... they’re homeless...so we need more housing in our community that’s affordable.”



Ms. Tobey Phillips, Community Services Director, Phillips stressed the importance of public-private partnerships in developing and providing affordable housing for low income residents to avoid homelessness and that her department will “partner up in the future on other projects” and is “excited to see this project grow.”



Finally, Mr. Murphy introduced Bishop Parkes to make remarks and conduct the blessing ceremony. Bishop Parkes emphasized “we see a role for the Catholic Church in projects like St. Benedict Housing” and reinforced his commitment to provide housing in all counties of the Diocese, “including Citrus County.”

As Bishop Parkes has previously stated in confirming the Churches’ commitment to providing affordable housing:

“Scripture says that the Son of Man had no place to lay his head. We believe as a Church that every person deserves to have a home and deserves to have a place where they can be safe.”

Bishop Parkes concluded by reminding the audience of all the hard work that led to this day, but that “This is the exciting part. To actually be breaking ground and see this project come to life.” He then blessed the property through prayer and the sprinkling of holy water on the grounds. Then, wearing hard hats and carrying ceremonial shovels, the formal groundbreaking ceremony took place with Bishop Parkes accompanied by two groups of visiting dignitaries, including among others, the event speakers, members of the Elks and Rotary Clubs, and Catholic Charities board member, Mr. Dennis O’Hanlan, who has provided invaluable guidance in this and several other Catholic Charities construction projects.

According to Mr. Murphy, when complete, St. Benedict Housing will provide ten units of housing – five 1-bedroom apartments for individuals and five 2-bedroom apartments for families. Two of the ten units will be designated for veterans who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless with priority given to those who are either chronically homeless or have a disabling condition. Mr. Murphy stressed that Catholic Charities is working with public and private partners to develop St. Benedict Housing with financial assistance is coming from Citrus County Housing Services (via State of Florida SHIP program funds), Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and Brannen Banks of Florida.

According to one of those funders, “Catholic Charities has a lot of experience with helping the homeless. They have a great system. They work with the community and they go above and beyond what other non-profits do and they are a wonderful partner for this whole process,” said Kevin Tatreau, Director of Development Finance and Interim Director for Multi-Family Development at Florida Housing Finance Corporation. In turn, Mr. Murphy thanked Florida Housing for its long-term partnership with Catholic Charities, saying of Mr. Tatreau specifically and Florida Housing, “he’s helped fund 141 [units of housing] and with this 10, 151 facilities for people to live in that Catholic Charities was able to do because of Florida Housing. We can’t do it without them and appreciate their support.”

Local organizations such as Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 and Central Citrus County Rotary Club embraced the initiative and are each providing \$20,000 worth of kitchen appliances and furnishings, respectively. Daystar of Citrus County, located next to the future St. Benedict Housing, has committed to providing support services to future tenants.



Financial Information

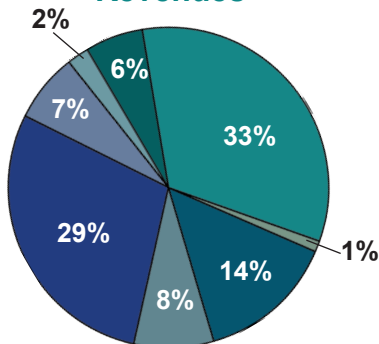
Revenues:

Diocese of St. Petersburg	\$1,000,000
Grants	\$5,389,347
United Way	\$240,738
Contributions / Fundraising	\$2,269,299
Program Service Fees	\$1,320,428
Rent Related Income	\$4,685,135
In-kind Revenues	\$1,155,783
Other Income	\$304,651
Total Revenue	\$16,365,381

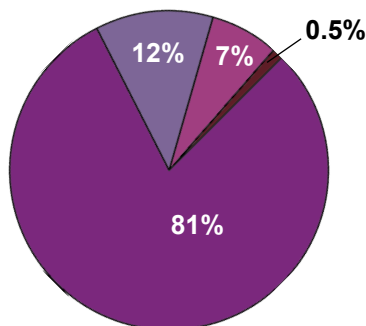
Expenses:

Program Expenses	\$13,260,610
Fundraising and Admin. Costs	\$1,939,971
In-Kind Expenses	\$1,155,783
Net Increase from Operations	\$9,017
Total Expenses	\$16,365,381

Revenues



Expenses



*100% Financial Transparency Score from Charity Navigator
Over 88% of all Funds go directly to our clients
through our services and programs*



Message from our Leadership

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

This year we announced *Courageously Living the Gospel*, the vision for the Diocese of St. Petersburg to guide us in what we hope to accomplish as a diocese over the next three years. In it, we proclaim our sacred purpose to proclaim the Good News, as we invite all people to encounter the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. One important element of the vision is the Church's Gospel mandate to courageously serve our brothers and sisters in need (Matthew 25). In addition to the work done by each parish within the Diocese, Catholic Charities is a major contributing force in our effort to promote the social good of all people within our five-county diocese (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus) and has served over 15,000 of our brothers and sisters this past year through the following Ministries of Mercy:

Shelters of Hope. We focus on the homeless and those in need of affordable housing. We provided shelter to over 1,700 homeless men, women, and children, including families with a disabled member and mothers who are HIV/AIDS positive. Pinellas Hope, housing nearly 250 men and women, has helped 10,000 people since its 2007 founding, and assisted over 5,000 in achieving permanent, stable housing. We provided affordable housing to nearly 3,500 individuals in need, including the elderly and migrant farm worker families. We embraced Bishop Parkes' goal of establishing 8 to 10 new locations of affordable housing with the September 7, 2018 groundbreaking of St. Benedict Housing, located in Citrus County.

Foundations of Life. Promoting the life of the unborn is central to the Church's mission to respect all life. Bishop Parkes blessed the new Tampa pregnancy center location on December 3, 2017. Our four pregnancy and adoption centers and the Knights Women's Center served nearly 2,300 women, saving countless babies' lives and completing adoption plans for thirteen babies with many more kept by their mothers. Thanks to the generosity of several Knights of Columbus councils and the Florida State Council, each of our centers now has a 3D/4D ultrasound machine with which to help our clients choose life.

Friends in Need. Many more brothers and sisters in Christ need assistance. This year, Catholic Charities assisted nearly 3,000 immigrants and refugees; 1,200 with basic medical care at three clinics and a mobile bus; nearly 100 suffering from Alzheimer's and their caregivers received respite care in Hernando and Citrus Counties; 700 received financial literacy and housing counseling; 1,800 were assisted at the Citrus Outreach Center, which includes a soup kitchen, food pantry, and other services. Additionally, Catholic Charities spent nearly \$1 million in disaster relief assisting 1,445 people who were displaced from their homes or suffered financial setbacks as the result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Thank you for supporting and being a part of our Ministries of Mercy for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to Catholic Charities as we all commit to *Courageously Living the Gospel*.



Frank V. Murphy III
President, Catholic Charities



Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg



Catholic Charities

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc.

1213 16th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

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