



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191
P: 732.562.2458 • F: 732.562.1427 • E: bishop@diometuchen.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the highlights of my first eight months as your bishop was the two days I spent visiting all of the Catholic Charities sites in our diocese. I was truly inspired by the dedication and compassion shown by our Catholic Charities staff to so many people. It was very apparent during my visits that there is no “typical” Catholic Charities client. They live in every part of our diocese; they come from every background and economic strata.

A vital program of Catholic Charities is its Emergency Assistance Program, which provides immediate assistance to individuals and families faced with a sudden, unanticipated hardship beyond a parish’s capacity to meet—from avoiding an eviction to paying a utility or medications bill to finding a clean and safe place to spend the night. Last year, Catholic Charities came to the emergency assistance of 1,271 individuals and families (including 578 children). Moreover, these requests for help came from two-thirds of our parishes—unfortunately, a record-setting number.

In order to insure that no person or family is ever turned away in a time of crisis, the *Together in Charity Collection* was established several years ago. The monies realized from this collection provide the safety net for the Emergency Assistance Program when the program’s needs exceed its regular sources of funding. This year’s collection will be taken up next weekend.

No one is immune from unforeseen reversals and tragedies. With your help, however, every person in our diocese can be at peace this new year in the knowledge that, should a crisis arise, their parish and their diocese will be there to assist them.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity, and with Christmas blessings, I remain

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen