



Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens

191 Joralemon Street Brooklyn, New York 11201





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*Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it
is in giving that we receive.*

from the Prayer of St. Francis

Dear Friend of Catholic Charities,

As I write this letter, Christmas, the season of hope and joy, is almost here. Yet increasingly we see the face of despair. Our city is facing some of the worst times in recent memory.

Our economy is entering its first recession in over ten years. Many people are being laid off. Others face the very real threat of losing their homes.

Then, disaster on September 11 almost put us over the edge as the need for clothing, food, and counseling from Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens became greater than ever. Your generosity has helped provide for those directly affected, but now so many other neighbors are requesting our assistance.

I want to tell you about three families for whom the holiday season will be especially tough this year:

Michelle is a sweet and lovable little girl. For her though, the holiday season is not always such a joyous time.

Her mother cannot afford any gifts and a Christmas dinner is impossible to prepare with an empty refrigerator. Michelle cannot understand why she and her mother, who comes home exhausted from her minimum wage job, have so little.

As they face another holiday with little to celebrate, her mother prays: "Dear God, who will help us"?

Catholic Charities can! Your contribution will help feed struggling families.

In another part of the city, Tony, an unemployed young father, feels the cold and bitter winter bearing down. While others celebrate with trees and lights, he worries about keeping a roof over his children's heads.

Unless a miracle happens soon, he and his family could be homeless and face freezing on the sidewalk.

"What can I do, Lord?" he asks. "Who will help me?"

Catholic Charities can! Your contribution will help shelter homeless families.

Dorothy who is 85, worked hard all her



life, raising her children and being an active community member. She doesn't ask for much, just time to meet friends for a game of cards or for lunch at a local coffee shop.

Although Dorothy is in good health, her husband Sam, who suffers from Alzheimers, cannot be left alone. Government programs provide some relief, but she never gets a break for herself.

She would just like a day off once in a while, who can help?

Catholic Charities can. Your contribution will provide much needed relief to the elderly.

Your dollars can help Catholic Charities do God's Work in a most meaningful and effective way:

Your generosity funds our Food Pantry Centers, where our less fortunate neighbors can always get a bag of groceries.

Your donations help us shelter families. Our housing services assist hard working families in their search for safe secure homes.

Your contributions provide respite care and activity programs to assist the elderly in caring for loved ones suffering from Alzheimers.

All it takes is a few dollars. Won't you please help us by contributing today? With friends like you, Catholic Charities has been able to make a difference for over 100 years. We run over 180 programs, caring for over 400,000 people every year.

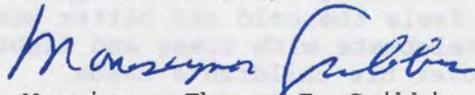
But we can't do it without the help of generous contributors like you.

As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Birth, the need for food and shelter is critical! In the last two years alone the number of people coming to us for food has doubled.

In this holiday season of giving, as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, I'm asking for your gift to make it a better, more bearable winter for those who need our help.

Thank you. And God Bless You.

Yours in Christ,



Monsignor Thomas F. Cribbin
Associate Executive Director

P.S. Christmas is the season of joy and renewal. In that spirit, please give as much as you can to uplift the hungry, the homeless, the suffering. In return, we hope you'll take the enclosed Christmas message from Bishop Sullivan and keep it with you as thanks for your help.



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Yes, I want to help Catholic Charities provide food, shelter and assistance to those less fortunate than me.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$15 \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

John Q. Sample
123 Main Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

123456 A02HS

Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to Catholic Charities and return it in the envelope provided.

- My employer will match this gift; my matching gift form is enclosed.
- Please send me *free* information about special ways I can give to Catholic Charities and earn tax and income benefits. (Please see other side.)

CCBQ A1



Please
Place
Stamp
Here
Thank You



Catholic Charities

Brooklyn and Queens

Attn: Msgr. Thomas Cribbin
P.O. Box 020600
Brooklyn, NY 11202-0014

