5 A

Catholic Charities

MDP of God

In our 1st reading today we heard God speak to us, through the Prophet Isaiah—about how important it is that we take care of the needy—God says,

*Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own.*

My friends, when Jesus came into the world—He fed the hungry—He cared for the oppressed—He provided for the needs of those who were suffering

As Catholics –a huge part of our faith is that we are to carry on the saving work of Jesus

 So the Catholic Church has always provided for those in need

In fact in the early Church, when Christians were being persecuted—those in authority complained about the Church saying—“they not only take care of their widows and orphans—they take care of ours too!”

And they complained about us—because we were making them look bad

Throughout the ages the Catholic Church has always stood with the poor and needy---and we continue to do that today

 In our food centers we feed the hungry

Through our Recovery outreach programs we help those who are addicted to get a new lease on life

 In the Holy Family hospice center we minister of the needs of the dying

In providing help for needy moms to keep their children—to counseling services—to providing Catholic chaplains to various hospitals

The Catholic Church continues to bring the ministry of Jesus to the world

Now much of that ministry occurs through our parishes—but a lot of significant work is done through Catholic Charities

 And all of us can share in that continuing work of Jesus

As Catholics we share in that continuing work—we do that in giving of our time to the various ministries of the Church

 We also do that through financially making a lot of these ministries possible

So every year we are asked by the Bishop to support our local Catholic Charities appeal

And to walk you through that I’d like to invite Baron Miller to come forward: