



BECAUSE *we are* CATHOLIC

Charities leader: ‘God prepared me for this work’

Catholic Charities is the largest private social service provider in the Washington D.C. area, helping over 120,000 men, women and children in need through 65 programs in 47 locations across the District and five surrounding Maryland counties: Montgomery, Prince George’s, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary’s.

“I want the first response from our team to always be Yes,” said Reverend Monsignor John Enzler, who took over as President and CEO of Catholic Charities in July 2011. “It may be a qualified Yes at times but we only say No when we have to. There are no closed doors for help and housing. We will find a way to make sure doors are open to all of our different departments.”

Since 1929, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington has been opening doors with life-changing care including housing and health care to inspire hope and build futures regardless of religious, social or economic backgrounds.

“We have programs for the homeless with up to 1,800 beds per night,” said Enzler, a Bethesda native. “We are the only five-star rated behavioral health agency in Washington D.C. We served 4.2 million meals last year and had about 16,000 people who received direct medical, dental or mental health services. It is really fun to make services available and to try to figure out how to do it in a better, more efficient, organized way.”

Enzler was named 2012 Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian Magazine for taking Catholic Charities to the next level. His goal is to use every parish in the Archdiocese to make a difference for those in need by carrying out projects such as food drives.



Monsignor John Enzler (right), president and CEO of Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C., is always looking to “increase our presence in the community.”

“We have a pretty substantial outreach network, which is where we are different from most Catholic Charities,” Enzler said. “We are striving to include our parishes as service centers. We have 140 parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington, so we have 140 franchises to help those in need. We partner with them to continue the ministry. When I first started we had about 20 working with us, now it is closer to 100. It is good to see the parishes buying into it.”

Enzler was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington in 1973 and was named Monsignor in 1985. He has served as pastor at a number of parishes throughout the Archdiocese, including Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda and Lady of Mercy in Potomac. He believes his years of service groomed him for his current position.

“I think God prepared me for this work by putting me in some of the more affluent parishes in the Archdiocese,” added Enzler. “These are the ‘have’ parishes. My role is to use the relationships I have established and ask them to give back to those who are not as fortunate. We have been able to increase our presence in the community and are making great progress in terms of what we are trying to accomplish.”

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND SERVES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR, VULNERABLE AND THOSE IN NEED NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLIC, BUT **BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC.**