



BECAUSE *we are* CATHOLIC

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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
MARCH 13, 2014

Pope Francis & World Celebrate First Anniversary

One year ago, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope and took the name Francis after St. Francis of Assisi to help him and us stay close to the poor and vulnerable.

“Francis abandoned riches and comfort in order to become a poor man among the poor. He understood that true joy and riches do not come from the idols of this world - material things and the possession of them - but are to be found only in following Christ and serving others.” – *Pope Francis, July 24, 2013*

Serving in Maryland’s Poorest County

The Seton Center in Somerset County meets the needs of the poor and treats all with respect, according to an article (*February 20, 2014*) in *The Dialog*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Wilmington which includes Maryland’s counties on the Eastern Shore.

Seton Center, now part of Catholic Charities, was begun over thirty years ago by the Sisters of Charity. They offer a wide range of services responding to the needs of local residents, the Hispanic community and the area’s migrant farm workers. Seton Center’s mission is to provide hospitality, service and advocacy - working toward a more just society.

Seton Center provides supplementary food programs (food cooperative program, emergency food pantry), community enrichment programs (wellness activities education, WIC), emergency assistance (rent/mortgage and utility assistance), outreach services (Relatives as Parents, Hispanic community), a thrift shop and more.

“Seton Center is a welcoming place,” said Sister Cecilia McManus. “When there’s someone in need we want to do whatever we can to meet those needs.” At Seton Center, everyone is treated as “a valued person. Their problem doesn’t identify them. ... We treat them with respect.”