



For Immediate Release

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Hundreds of nativities on display at annual “No Room at the Inn” December 4 in Des Moines

Inspiring others to join in efforts to reduce poverty is the focus of events organized by Catholic Charities.

DES MOINES, IOWA — More than 300 nativity scenes from around the world will be on display, Sunday, Dec. 4 from 1-5 p.m. at 6th and Grand Ave. in downtown Des Moines. The exhibition of nativities is the centerpiece of events hosted by Catholic Charities intended to inspire others to join in efforts to help lift people out of poverty with dignity.

Working together to reduce poverty with an emphasis on respect and dignity is what the work of Catholic Charities is all about, says Nancy Galeazzi, executive director. “At Catholic Charities, we address poverty not only in terms of income, but also barriers like a lack of emotional and spiritual resources or education. We work to help people reach their full potential,” she said.

In addition to an array of traditional and unique nativity displays from around the world, local choirs and a live nativity scene will be featured. Bishop Richard E. Pates and Bishop Emeritus Joseph L. Charron will also read the Christmas story during the event at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Admission to the event is a gift of a personal care item or cash donation to help people served through Catholic Charities Poverty Reduction Programs: St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, St. Mary Family Center, Hispanic Community Outreach and Refugee Resettlement.

No Room at the Inn is part of Catholic Charities Week 2011 held Nov. 28-Dec.4. “Together, we can help lift people out of poverty with dignity” is the theme of the week-long poverty awareness campaign organized by Catholic Charities, which serves the 23 counties of southwest Iowa. Catholic Charities Week and No Room at the Inn festivities include:

- Bare Essentials Campaign- Schools, businesses, churches and individuals can collect personal care items to help people living below the poverty line.
- No Room at the Inn Fundraising Reception – Friday, Dec. 2 from 5-8 p.m.
- Poverty Simulation – Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to Noon
- Musical Open House and Nativity Exhibition – Sunday, Dec. 4 from 1-5 p.m.

For a full schedule of weekend events and information about Catholic Charities Poverty Reduction Programs go to www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org or call 515-237-5078.

Founded in 1924, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Des Moines is dedicated to offering help and hope to those in need throughout central and southwest Iowa. Catholic Charities, a United Way agency,

provides pregnancy counseling and adoption services, individual and family counseling, Hispanic community outreach and refugee resettlement services. Other Catholic Charities programs include St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter and St. Mary Family Center. For information about Catholic Charities of Des Moines, its programs and services, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdm.org.

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