



# Catholic Charities Affiliates

Of the Diocese of LaCrosse  
News Letter

June 30, 2009

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## Prayer

### Prayer for Our Country

Almighty God,  
bless our nation  
and make it true  
to the ideas of freedom and justice  
and brotherhood for all who make it great.

Guard us from war, from fire and wind,  
from compromise, fear, confusion.

Make me more deeply aware of my heritage;  
realizing not only my rights but also my duties  
and responsibilities as a citizen.

Make this great land and all its people  
know clearly Your will,  
that they may fulfill the destiny ordained for us  
in the salvation of the nations,  
and the restoring of all things in Christ.

Amen

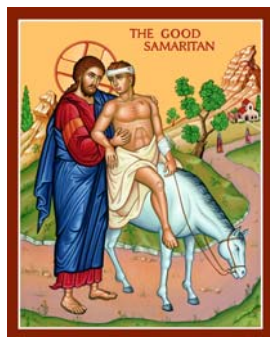
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## Reflection

During this summers celebration of our nations birth it is important to reflect on the Gospel. Jesus said that he did not come for the rich and famous, but for the humble, for those on the margins. Catholics need to be a voice for the most defenseless members of our society.

The Fourth of July is an opportunity to reflect on the role we as Catholics take in the public life of our country. With all its faults we still love America and be grateful we are part of this nation. And specifically as Catholics we have a contribution to make.

People who don't want us to make that contribution try to intimidate Catholics and other Christians with rhetoric about "separation of Church and state." But it is a red herring; the fact is none of us wants a state religion even if we converted every U.S. citizen. What we do desire is that our deepest values be heard and fairly represented.



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## Information

### *Government Must Not Balance Budget on the Backs of the Poor*

*Alexandria, VA*— Escalating funding issues challenge social service providers in today's economy. Catholic Charities agencies across the country indicate that decreasing funds impact both those they serve and those they employ. As state governments face new budget years a stark reality has emerged. Proposed and unprecedented cuts to programs that provide minimal, but essential, services to the country's poor and most vulnerable are leaving these people with no hope for safety net services. City, county and state governments are attempting to balance budgets on the backs of those who have the least.

As our country strives to recover from this severe economic disaster it must include all Americans in recovery efforts. It is morally imperative that the country pursue recovery programs and strategies that will not plunge the poor into ever more catastrophic circumstances from which they will find it almost impossible to recover.

Rev. Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA, stated, "I call on all government officials at every level to make prudent decisions that will minimize adverse effects on those who have the least in our society." In a public statement issued to elected officials Father Snyder went on to acknowledge that all Americans must share part of the burden of this economic crisis, but the poor and vulnerable must not bare a disproportionate share.

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## Affiliate News

Many thanks to you who have contacted the office and expressed your continued desire to offer prayer and service for the work of Catholic Charities in our diocese.



As we all know prayer does wonderful things, often with unseen blessings.

If you have individual prayer requests please let us know and they can be included in future communications.

Please continue to pray the prayer of Affiliation especially in these difficult economic times.

A blessed, safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all.