Help Catholic Charities by Joining ‘A Movable Feast’

On Oct. 24, just over a month from now, we will initiate a new fundraiser for Catholic Charities. The title of the event is “A Movable Feast” because we want to be inclusive of all parts of the Rockford Diocese with our services and priorities. Although the first celebration will occur in Rockford, we look forward to taking our message of service and advocacy to all parts of the diocese.

The headline for the inaugural event is Wayne Messmer, the voice of the National Anthem and “God Bless America” at Chicago’s major sporting events. Messmer is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, a faithful Catholic, and frequent emcee of the annual National Anthem and “God Bless America” event held in the Rockford area.

We are being aggressive with our pricing so we can be aggressive with our services. Thus, we have sought out and been grasped with some generous sponsorships. But we also have a limited number of tickets available for $200 each. That gets a preliminary reception, dinner, Wayne Messmer’s performance, and dessert. We also have a few tickets priced at $100 for just the performance. Pricey, yes. But, as MasterCard would say, “Priceless.”

As the host deanery, 50% of our net proceeds will go to the Rockford Deanery of 19 parishes, and 50% will be spread across our services in the other six deaneries.

Next year we plan to hold our event in Aurora, so 50% will stay in that deanery. Then we will move to the western part of the diocese with the same split.

Our diocese is the size of the state of Connecticut and covers 11 counties. Our services and our advocacy must extend, as our friends at The Observer say, “from the Fox River to the Mississippi.” Please join us. And please support our sponsors. They have committed to us because they are convinced of the value of our work and the dedication that comes from over 80 years of diocesan service.

We know the price is above the usual range, but we also know that our services are needed throughout the diocese. Please consider being a part of the solutions that Catholic Charities can lead in our communities.

We are good stewards with your money, with overhead costs at 8% of donations. Our clients get a lot of bang for the buck.

Father Damien committed his life to those who were otherwise abandoned. Please come celebrate his commitment and dedication with Wayne Messmer by helping us serve others who are abandoned and in need of the kindness of modern Good Samaritans. On behalf of our current and new clients, our staff and our volunteers, thank you for letting us be the Good Samaritans in hundreds of people’s lives across the Diocese of Rockford.

In the Global Church
‘If the Amazon Suffers, the World Suffers’

Describing the Amazon rainforest as “vital for our planet,” Pope Francis joined the region’s bishops in praying for action to extinguish the massive fires burning there. “We are all worried about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon,” the pope said Aug. 25 after leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer. “Let us pray that with the commitment of all they will be brought under control quickly. That forest lung is vital for our planet.”

“We urge the governments of the Amazonian countries, especially Brazil and Bolivia, the United Nations and the international community, to take serious measures to save the lungs of the world,” said the statement Aug. 22 by the top officers of the Latin American bishops’ council, known by its Spanish acronym, CELAM.

“What happens to the Amazon is not just a local issue, but is of global reach,” the bishops said. “If the Amazon suffers, the world suffers.”

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

The Observer

The Amazon

The Amazon River basin covers an area more than five times the size of Alaska.

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