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****Media Alert****

Local Social Service Agency Needs the Public's Support this Holiday Season to Benefit the Poor and Needy in Central Florida-

2011 Catholic Charities of Central Florida Special Collection to be held November 5 & 6

On November 5 and 6, Central Floridians will have the opportunity to join Catholic Charities of Central Florida in helping local families in need. This comes right before the holidays and at a time when our communities continue to face a difficult economic climate. During the celebration of Mass across Central Florida the first weekend in November a special collection will be held for the needy and working poor.

A unique detail of this fundraising effort is that 100% of the funds collected stay in the region where they are raised for an increase in Emergency Family Services. None of the funds raised are used for overhead or administration, rather they go directly to the poor and suffering. The special collection allows Catholic Charities to serve clients who are usually at the end of their financial rope. There are many reasons a family could find themselves in a financial crisis such as the loss of a job, death in the family, or unforeseen medical expenses.

“Many of our families have been without regular full time work and income for more than two years,” said Arne Nelson, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Central Florida. “We were, in many cases, the only safety net left for them in their communities.” Funds raised go directly to the most urgent needs of families such as help with rent/mortgage payments, food, medical assistance and utilities.

The entire community is asked to support this collection, regardless of religious affiliation; all Central Floridians are invited to join in these efforts to assist their fellow neighbors in desperate need. Your generous donation can potentially help a family maintain a home and stay together this holiday season.

“There are countless stories of people in need who have seen the face of God through your wondrous generosity,” said Bishop John Noonan of Orlando of past special collections. Overall from 2008 to 2011, the Second Collection has provided a total of \$827,992.45 for an average of \$207,500 per year to go directly to the most urgent needs of families.

Catholic Charities of Central Florida is one of the foremost providers of social services in the state of Florida, having served more than 130,000 men, woman and children over the past year. Catholic Charities of Central Florida's mission is to provide vital social services to people in need, regardless of their religious, social or economic background, to improve lives of individuals, families and the community.

For more information on donating, please contact Catholic Charities at 407-473-6104/ toll-free at 888-658-2828 or via email at Patrick.disalvatore@cflcc.org. The agency serves Lake, Marion, Sumter, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Brevard, Volusia, and Polk Counties. We ask that you

identify the county in which you reside so that the funds may go directly to your designated area.
To find out more about Catholic Charities of Central Florida visit www.cflcc.org.

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