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March 5, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we begin the sacred season of Lent, I ask you to reflect on Jesus' words: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). This call to serve the poor, the meek, and the hungry is at the heart of our faith. In response to the Gospel, our Archdiocese will take up its annual Ash Wednesday Collection for Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada on March 5, 2025.

For 84 years, Catholic Charities has operated vital programs that uplift the most vulnerable among us, which today includes:

- Meals on Wheels, delivering to 2,400 homebound seniors, ensuring our cherished elderly have access to a nutritious daily meal at home.
- The St. Vincent Lied Dining Facility serving an average of 450 free meals every day to individuals and families in need.
- The Hands of Hope Community Food Pantry providing groceries to nearly 4,000 working poor individuals and families each month.
- The Emergency Night Shelter giving 400 homeless men nightly shelter and access to hygiene and supportive services.
- The Renewing HOPE Program helping men transition from homelessness to selfsufficiency through job training and individualized support with an 80% success rate.
- The St. Vincent Apartments operating 120 low-income housing units with supportive services.

As we embrace the acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, may we reflect on how we can follow Christ's teachings through our own actions and generosity. Your contributions will allow Catholic Charities to continue bringing the Gospel to life and transforming lives in our community.

May the Lord bless you and your families this Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D. Archbishop of Las Vegas