

## **The 2018 Annual Matthew 25 Award**

*"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.  
I was a stranger and you made me welcome; lacking clothes and you clothed me.  
I was sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me ...  
In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least  
of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.." (Mt. 25:35-36, 40)*

### **Reminder: there could be multiple award winners!**

The *Matthew 25 Award* is a grant given to parishes directly serving vulnerable people in need, regardless of their faith affiliation. **Starting in 2018, we will recognize one parish with the Matthew 25 Award for \$5,000 and three parishes with grants for \$2,000 each.** The award is designed to expand the capacity of a parish ministry to serve more people or to help develop a new social ministry. It can be used to help purchase items needed for the ministry – *i.e.*: dishwasher for a soup kitchen, computer, tables and chairs for a food pantry, to purchase supplies - even a vehicle for the ministry, etc. It can be used to start a ministry – *i.e.*: help pay rent to acquire space for a ministry, begin offering financial literacy services to consumers, start a program to teach independent living skills, start a mentoring program for pregnant women, etc.

The Award recognizes parishes providing "charitable service" as defined by Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical, "*Deus Caritas Est*" (*God Is Love*). He listed three specific qualities of a Church-related charitable service which the parish social ministry must exemplify:

- 1. It responds to immediate needs and specific situations with more than "technical care", but with genuine love and heartfelt concern that enables others to experience the richness and totality of their humanity, made in the image and likeness of God. (DCE #31)**
- 2. It is independent of parties or ideologies, but sees with the heart where love is needed and acts accordingly, utilizing planning, foresight and cooperation with other like-minded institutions. (DCE #31)**
- 3. It is love given freely. It is not proselytism. The Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak. (DCE #31)**

### **The Matthew 25 Award assists parish's social ministries that complements the Mission of Catholic Charities**

*"Inspired by scripture and the Church's social teaching, Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens individuals and families of all faiths by providing innovative community-based social services throughout Maine." (Catholic Charities Mission Statement)*

Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Form

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the name of the Parish Social Ministry (*i.e.* the program or project that serves those in need)?
  
2. Please describe what this ministry does and whom it serves:
  
3. Based on the principles above for a "charitable service" as described in *Deus Caritas Est*, please share with us the following information:
  - a. How does it respond to immediate needs and specific situations with more than "technical care"; but rather "with genuine love and heartfelt concern that enables others to experience the richness and totality of their humanity, made in the image and likeness of God. (*DCE #31*)"? Please give examples.
  
  - b. Is it independent of parties or ideologies so that it serves anyone, regardless of faith affiliation?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please give examples.
  
  - c. Is there a process to evaluate how the ministry is doing and then make adaptations based on that evaluation? \_\_\_\_\_ Please give examples.
  
  - d. Does it collaborate with other social ministries in the broad community? \_\_\_\_\_ Please give examples.
  
  - e. Do people served need to pay to receive the service? \_\_\_\_\_ If they pay, can exceptions be made for those who cannot afford to pay?



Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_

10. How will the ministry be sustained beyond the possible funding from the Matthew 25 Award? (This could be financially, in-kind donations, volunteer time, etc.)

Person Completing Application \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Completing Application/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Pastor or Priest Administrator

**Please mail completed application by April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to:**

***Catholic Charities Maine***

***Parish Social Ministry***

***Michael Smith***

***PO Box 10660***

***Portland, ME 04104-6060***

**Or, FAX completed application by April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to: 523-2764, or**

**E-mail it to: [msmith@ccmaine.org](mailto:msmith@ccmaine.org)**

***WE ARE CATHOLIC CHARITIES***

*A faith-based, non-profit organization, we have been serving the poor and vulnerable populations of Maine since 1966.*

*From food banks in Aroostook to child care in York County, our network of 650+ professionals and 700+ volunteers helped more than 56,000 of our neediest neighbors last year, answering want with generosity and replacing despair with hope.*

Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_

### Guidelines for Granting Matthew 25 Awards

1. The ministry will be parish based and operated by the parish.
2. Funding will be used for a direct service ministry that helps meet the basic needs of people living in the parish's communities. Funding should also be used to expand the capacity of a current ministry to serve more people or be used to start a new ministry.
3. Subsequent year grants may be awarded based upon number of other applications, the ministry's fit to the criteria of the award, and availability of funds.
4. Requests can be up to \$5,000.
5. Applications must be received by FAX, e-mail, or direct mail by the Parish Social Ministry office at Catholic Charities no later than April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. When we receive your application, we will send you an e-mail acknowledgement that we have received it.
6. A committee of Catholic Charities Board members, Advisory Committee members and staff reviews all applications. If more information about an application is needed, they will contact you. The Board makes the final decision.
7. The Pastors or Administrators and/or contact persons for the ministries are notified of the Award or grant selections by mid May. The selected parishes will be announced in the next scheduled bi-weekly Parish Social Ministry E-Newsletter in May, and on our web-site.
8. The Matthew 25 Award is given out at a weekend celebration of the Mass in the parish where the ministry is based
  - The parish determines if it wishes to sponsor any kind of reception or ceremony in conjunction with the Mass and Award presentation.

**For more information, please contact:**

Michael Smith @ 523-2772

E-mail: [msmith@ccmaine.org](mailto:msmith@ccmaine.org)