



Letter to the Community

June 2026

Dear Supporters of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee,

As the president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, I want to thank you for sharing your input, prayers and support as we work together to bring dignity, hope and human services to our neighbors in southeastern Wisconsin.

Prior to joining Catholic Charities, I spent 15 years in law firm leadership and, prior to that, 15 years leading a technology company that I founded. My wife Paula and I are long-time parishioners at St. Mary's Visitation Parish and have also been lifetime supporters of many Catholic organizations.

Since joining Catholic Charities almost a year ago, I have enjoyed getting to know our incredible staff and meeting many of our dedicated donors and supporters in our parishes and across the 10-county region we serve. Now, in an effort to keep you informed as we advance this vital work together, I'm providing this update.

Update on the Fraud Investigation

As we publicly disclosed to all donors and the media in December 2024, Catholic Charities fell victim to fraudulent activity by certain former employees who used agency funds for their and others' personal benefit. Significant funds were stolen over many years, starting with small amounts in earlier years and growing to more significant theft by the time it was discovered in 2024. When the fraud was discovered, we immediately notified law enforcement and terminated those involved who were then still with the agency.

In February of this year, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced the indictment of three individuals and plea deals with five others involved in this fraud scheme. The plea deals include a requirement for restitution and a recommendation of jail time. To date, we have recovered approximately \$500,000 and are pursuing additional recovery efforts. We also have an outstanding claim against our prior auditing firm.

I appreciate how difficult this news was then, and the sting we all still feel. It is hard to comprehend a violation like this, especially considering that our mission is to serve those with limited resources. I am grateful that justice is underway.

Catholic Charities took several important steps in the wake of the fraud's discovery to understand how this happened and to upgrade our governance and accounting policies and practices to ensure that anything like this doesn't happen again. We commissioned several independent investigations that confirmed no other current employees were involved in or aware of the fraud.

Other significant steps following the fraud have included the following: making major changes to our leadership structure and finance operations; hiring a new director of finance who has instituted these new policies and practices, resulting in substantial improvements to our internal controls, and changing auditing firms. Finally, it should be noted that we completed our 2024 audit with the new firm, have addressed all deficiencies that were identified in the 2024 audit, and are currently finalizing our 2025 audit.

Vibrancy of our Mission

When I joined Catholic Charities, among my first questions was how the fraud case impacted our relationships with our donors and those we serve. I was heartened then – and am even more heartened now – that no programs or services were negatively impacted because of this crime. Moreover, our donors have continued to stand strongly with us and the work we do to serve those most marginalized in our communities.

In 2025, we positively impacted more than 50,000 people (clients and their families) seeking pregnancy and parenting support, adoption services, mental health services, care for elderly adults, and refugee and immigration services, among other critically important services. More than 97% of those we serve live at or below poverty level, and we simply cannot fulfill our mission without all of you. I hope you take a moment to view the [video](#) we shared at our recent “Benefit for Hope” event to learn more about our shared impact.

Strategic Planning for the Future

We have already begun a new strategic planning process designed to guide our shared work well into the future. This process will review and renew our Vision, Mission and goals for the work ahead. Central to this process will always be our care for those most in need. Our [2025 annual report](#) shares several stories about the impact of our work.

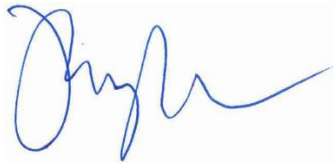
Shortly after I started in this role, Pope Leo XIV released his first Apostolic Exhortation [“Dilexi Te”](#) which serves as a wonderful inspiration and guide for the work we do at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. With God's grace and your continued support,

we are renewed in our focus and dedication to the bold call of Dilexi Te: “Charity has the power to change reality; it is a genuine force for change in history”.

As we renew our efforts to deliver on this bold goal of changing the current reality for many of those living on the margins, we are also committed to improving as an organization. That includes an honest assessment of where we have fallen short, making the changes needed to ensure mistakes are not repeated, listening to input from our supporters and other stakeholders, and continuing to trust in God to guide our work.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at peberle@ccmke.org.

God Bless.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Eberle', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Paul J. Eberle
President and CEO
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee