

NEWS

Archbishop asks Catholics to give to those in need

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:21)

SINGAPORE – Our secular society encourages personal and self interests and we want to hold on to what we have of material possessions, power, prestige and money, but these are only temporary, said Archbishop Nicholas Chia in a message for Charities Week 2009.

The Church gives us this period during Lent to encourage every Catholic to take time to reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he advised. “We are called to focus on charitable deeds to help us draw closer to God and our neighbours. It is therefore important that we set aside time for prayer and spiritual reflection through the use of the Lenten booklet,” he said. “We should re-examine our ‘treasures’ in life since these determine the priorities and attitudes of our heart.”

Archbishop Chia said that Jesus is concerned that we build treasures that do not decrease in value and that Jesus connected



giving to the poor with laying up treasure in heaven. “He Himself cared for those in need by feeding the hungry,” the archbishop said.

There are many Catholic

charities under the umbrella of Caritas Singapore that serve the poor and those in need, and “I encourage you to give generously,” the archbishop encouraged. “Such sacrificial giving has significance, not only for those to whom we give, but also for ourselves. It transforms us from a life of self-centredness to one that is God-centred and, as a result others-centred.

“God has expressed His generosity towards us in so many ways, especially in giving His Son to redeem us. Let us then, with gratitude towards God and love towards our fellow human beings, share what we have with those in greater need, acting on our Christian teaching that ‘it is blessed to give.’” □

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CSCC
Caritas Singapore
Community Council

Charities Week 2009 is a project by Caritas Singapore Community Council
55 Waterloo Street #09-03 Catholic Welfare Centre Singapore 187164
W: www.caritas-singapore.org E: info@caritas-singapore.org T: 65 6337 3711 F: 65 6337 7101