



OUR SOCIAL MISSION

BY CARITAS SINGAPORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It's Lent, a time to share

This is the season to be more aware of the needs of others, and share our time, talent or money to help them.

The season of Lent is here and we are reminded of the three traditional Lenten observances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

"Our acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving must make us more aware of God and less focused on ourselves", says Archbishop Nicholas Chia in his message on Charities Week 2011.

As we respond to his call to be more aware of the needs of others, we are encouraged to identify with the less fortunate and make some effort to share this world equally.

Almsgiving implies a material service rendered to the poor for Christ's sake. We can also perform active works of charity by sharing our time and talents with those in need.

During Lent, the Church gives us an opportunity to share our financial resources and talents to benefit the many charitable causes served by Catholic charity and community organisations.

We can donate towards Charities Week, the Archdiocese's annual fund-raiser to support the work of Caritas Singapore and its member organisations serving the less fortunate.

Charities Week begins on March 19 and is organised by Caritas Singapore Community Council, the umbrella body for 23 charities and groups whose work touches the lives of more than 50,000 people of all races, languages and religions.

Collectively, they offer more than 70 social programmes serving a wide spectrum of needs such as the poor and destitute, migrant workers, families and children, people with HIV/AIDS and prisoners.

Funds raised during Charities Week will enable these organisations to further their charitable cause. These funds will support improvements to key service programmes and new services launched recently in response to changing and increasing community needs.

Last year, we initiated the set up of Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations (ABLE) which serves the physically challenged, Caritas Humanitarian Aid and Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS) for overseas humanitarian aid, and CLARITY Singapore Limited to help people with psychiatric illnesses.

Charities Week proceeds will

go to a common chest to support their work as well as that of Caritas Singapore and its member organisations, which include the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, Boys' Town Singapore, Catholic AIDS Response Effort, Catholic Welfare Services, Family Life Society, Infant Jesus Homes and Children's Centres, Marine Parade Family Service Centre, Morning Star Community Services and the Roman Catholic Prison Ministry.

During Lent, you can also volunteer with our Catholic charity and community groups. To find out how you can help, go to: <http://www.caritas-singapore.org/volunteer/vopportunities.php>.

The work of helping the poor never ends. Just as Jesus was concerned with the poor, let us be inspired by God's message to us in the Beatitudes to spread His love to others through our faith and actions daily.

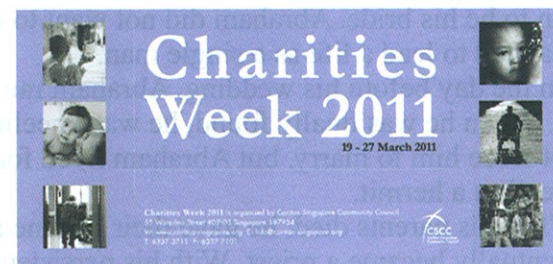
All of us are blessed with resources. No contribution is too small to help someone in need.



Catholic charities serve a wide range of people in need, from the aged, poor, disabled and sick to those in prison. To find out more about their work, go to www.caritas-singapore.org.

'Blessed is he that considers the needy and the poor'

— Psalm 40:2



Donate, make a difference.

To donate, pick up a Charities Week 2011 appeal envelope from your parish. Indicate if you would like tax deduction for your donation and provide your NRIC number.

Cash donation: Leave the appeal envelope in your parish offertory box.

Cheque donation: Write a cheque to 'Caritas Singapore' and mail it to:

Caritas Singapore
55 Waterloo Street #09-03
Singapore 187954

Please give generously.

With effect from Jan 1, 2011, all donors requiring tax deduction on donations are required by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) to provide their tax reference numbers (eg NRIC / FIN / UEN). IRAS will no longer accept claims for tax deduction based on donation receipts.