



Photo at left: Father Bach with Rev. Bernard Schiller  
Photo at right: Father Bach with Tom Pleas, Director of Catholic Family Services



## The Second Fifty Years

Catholic Charities is celebrating its 100th jubilee this year! I have not been involved in all 100, but I have been directly connected to it for the past 50 years – since 1962! That year, at the request of the bishop at that time, Bernard Topel, I went off to Catholic University in Washington, D.C. to get a Master's Degree in Social Work. Two years later, I was the Director of Catholic Charities at our old office location at 317 S Howard Street.

And what a ride it has been since! 1964 saw the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act which began the so-called War on Poverty. We had some wonderfully talented staff at the agency, and they seized on the opportunity to design the first local efforts to implement that Act. They demonstrated to the local politicians at the time that Spokane really did have a significant number of poor and disadvantaged people here. That led to us being designated as the official agency to receive the large amounts of money that were available. That led to the founding of the first Neighborhood Centers, which still exist today – although in much better facilities. These centers brought together under one roof many of the social services low-income people use, which were scattered all over town.



A few years later, programs became available to provide low cost housing to the elderly, to low income families and more recently to farm workers. Thank to the able assistance of Lou and Don Barbieri and Warren Heylman, we began a housing program that to-date has allowed us to build and operate 15 apartment buildings with 859 units! And these we located all over Eastern Washington, from Colville to Othello to Pullman and Walla Walla. And more are in the planning stages.

Under the extraordinary leadership of my successor, Donna Hanson, the work continued to prosper. More services were provided, more staff added and all the major Spokane programs – the House of Charity, St. Margaret's Shelter,

and St. Anne's Children & Family Center – were housed in new, state-of-the-art buildings. They were built and paid for thanks to the great generosity of so many wonderful donors, people like you who are reading this article.

Donna brought a vision of service and ministry that makes Catholic Charities the outstanding example of what Jesus meant when He challenged his followers to minister to the poor and hurting and abandoned, a vision capably carried on by her successor, Rob McCann, our current Director.

Having been on various boards and committees at Catholic Charities over all of those years, I am still on two. I have had the privilege to witness up close the growth of this ministry on behalf of the Catholics of our diocese. We have been very blessed. The needs are great, but the vision remains.

On to the next 100 years!

### Msgr. Frank Bach

Director Catholic Charities Spokane, 1965-1978  
Currently- Housing Board Member,  
Catholic Charities Foundation Board President



"Catholic Charities' Builders of Dreams," Ryan Bollinger and Ann Martin, Heylman Martin Architects, Rob McCann, Executive Director, Catholic Charities Spokane, Msgr. Frank Bach, Catherine Ryder, Garco Construction.



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Solidarity will transform the world...

Look for Operation Rice Bowl materials in your parish for a Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and education about how we stand in solidarity with people around the world. Call the Parish Social Ministries office at (509) 358-4273 or go on line to [www.orb.crs.org](http://www.orb.crs.org). This year we walk with the people of Ethiopia, El Salvador, Madagascar, Vietnam and India.

Plan to attend a day of information and inspiring stories at **St. Patrick's Parish, Pasco** with staff from Catholic Relief Services **Saturday, March 10th 9am to 2 pm** Presentations in Spanish and English. All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Scott Cooper, 358-4273 or [scooper@ccspokane.org](mailto:scooper@ccspokane.org) by March 5, 2012.



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Spokane



Jan./Feb. 2012

Dear Friends,

Christmas 2011, Catholic Charities served more individuals and families in need than we have in our 100 Year history. As we enter this, our Centennial year, there are hardly words to offer our thanks to our Staff, our Volunteers, our Board Members, and all of you, our Supporters. In lieu of words, I offer my best Prayer for this, our Catholic Charities Centennial Year...

- God of all hopefulness, in the coming year of grace, grant:
- To the poor: dignity;
- To the young: hope;
- To single mothers: support and encouragement;
- To families: serenity, security and love;
- To immigrants: a warm welcome and a new beginning in our midst;
- To the elderly: honor and satisfaction;
- To the mentally ill: the gentle quietness of inner peace;
- To the homeless and those without housing: an end to the search for a pillow and bed;
- To children in danger: the safety of God's unconditional protection;
- To dreamers: fulfillment;
- To workers: pride in their labor;
- To believers: strong faith;
- To our volunteers and supporters: our never-ending thanks;
- To all of us at Catholic Charities, your servants: a share in the work of revealing God's love to the poor and vulnerable; redeeming the world through that love.

Many blessings,

Rob McCann  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities Spokane

It all started with a 1912 Betterment League...