



FAITHFULLY SERVING VENTURA COUNTY FOR OVER 90 YEARS

## PRAY, FAST, GIVE.

A WORD FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GABRIEL RIVERA

In addition to my role as Program Director for Catholic Charities of Ventura County, the Lord is still calling me to evangelize young people. I was recently invited to facilitate, speak, and provide music at a series of Confirmation retreats for teenagers from three parishes in Lompoc, Santa Paula, and Ventura. While sharing about God's immense love for each of them as His beloved sons and daughters, I wanted to ensure that I also included a message about the wonderful opportunity to grow in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during this season of Lent. By the time you receive this, you will undoubtedly be in the throes of your own Lenten journey. How is it going for you? Are you finding it difficult to fulfill your Lenten promises over the course of 40 days?

The season calls for sacrifice and that can be difficult and overwhelming. Giving up something you are accustomed to having or doing can even lead us to experience suffering. Be reminded, however, that there is tremendous spiritual blessing in uniting your own sufferings (however big or small) with the Passion of Christ Jesus. As Holy Week approaches and the joy of the Easter season draws near, let the glory and hope of the Resurrection be your strength for the remainder of Lent. I'd like to invite you to offer prayer and fasting for the most poor and vulnerable in our community: low-income families, children & youth, the elderly, the homeless, the hungry, and others in need. If you are in a position to give alms this Lent, your monetary or in-kind donation is greatly appreciated and will ensure that clients continue to be served throughout Ventura County. I'd love to hear from you. Send me an email at [gabrielrivera@ccharities.org](mailto:gabrielrivera@ccharities.org). God bless you and Happy Easter!



PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GABRIEL RIVERA, ON RETREAT WITH YOUTH FROM OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IN SANTA PAULA AT SAINT ANDREW'S ABBEY IN VALYERMO, CA.

# CCVC BY THE NUMBERS...



**FY23/24**

LOURDES TAPIA, ALONG WITH HER GRANDDAUGHTER, GETS GROCERIES FOR HER FAMILY AT THE VENTURA COMMUNITY CENTER FOOD PANTRY.

## FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

### HOUSEHOLDS SERVED:

- Ventura Community Services Center: 1,905
- Moorpark Pantry Plus: 1,859
- OASIS, Camarillo: 280 Seniors

### FOOD DISTRIBUTED:

- Over 100,000 Pounds

### EFSP RENTAL ASSISTANCE:

- 42 households received \$49,339



OASIS CLIENT RESOURCES COORDINATOR, MICHELLE ONTIVEROS, VISITS CLIENT ADELA MARTINEZ FOR A ROUTINE WELFARE CHECK.



(LEFT) VOLUNTEER, WILLIE BRIDLE, KEEPS THE SHELVES STOCKED WITH CANNED GOODS AND OTHER ITEMS AT THE MOORPARK PANTRY PLUS WAREHOUSE.

(RIGHT) VENTURA COMMUNITY CENTER CLIENT, CHUI DARCUS, HAS PLENTY OF BREAD TO CHOOSE FROM THANKS TO OUR RETAIL FOOD PARTNERS LIKE VONS AND SPROUTS MARKETS.



We welcome four new Seminarian volunteers to the Ventura Community Center Pantry. Our partnership with St. John's Seminary will allow for extended pantry hours on Thursday mornings. (L to R) Jorge Noricumbo, Sean-Matthew Flores, Edward Vargas, David Nelson.



SPRING  
SEMESTER 2024

## SEMINARIAN SPOTLIGHT

## 2023 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS RECAP



THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF MOORPARK PANTRY PLUS GATHERED FOR AN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 21ST. THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN MOORPARK DISTRIBUTED FOOD TO 339 LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND OVER 500 TOYS TO CHILDREN AGES 0-16 YEARS OLD.



OASIS PROGRAM MANAGER, LISA NAGY, ALONG WITH OASIS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, CINDI RIOS, DELIVERED 495 GIFTS TO HOMEBOUND SENIORS WITH THEIR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS.



KAREN NICHTA WITH SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JUDE'S PARISH IN WESTLAKE VILLAGE DONATED OVER 200 CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND \$8,125 WORTH OF GIFT CARDS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.

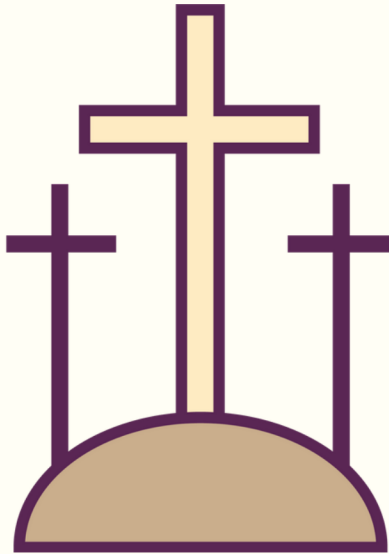
**SCOUT TROOP 633, TROOP 1633 AND VENTURE CREW 9633 DONATED 1,230 ITEMS OF SHELF STABLE GOODS FOR MOORPARK PANTRY PLUS FOR THE 2024 "SCOUTING FOR FOOD" CAMPAIGN.**



**(LEFT) NAVY SEA CADET GUTERMUTH OF TRIDENT PATROL ALONG WITH HER MOTHER ANGELA DONATED UNUSED FLOOR MATTS TO DISTRIBUTE TO THOSE WITHOUT A BED.**



**(RIGHT) IN DECEMBER, STUDENTS FROM HOLY CROSS STEM SCHOOL ORGANIZED A "WARMTH FOR THE WINTER" COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS AND DONATED THE ITEMS TO THE VENTURA COMMUNITY CENTER.**



**(L TO R) CLIENT RICHARD AGUIRRE (PICTURED WITH PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GABRIEL RIVERA), SINGLE SENIOR CLIENT SANDRA MCCULLOUGH, AND GISELA ALFARO, A MOTHER OF 5 CHILDREN, ALL USE THE VENTURA COMMUNITY CENTER FOOD PANTRY FOR THEIR GROCERY NEEDS.**

The staff of Catholic Charities of Ventura County wishes you and your family a Happy Easter! May you encounter Jesus, fully alive during this special Season. Please feel free to contact us! We are located at:

**303 N. Ventura Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93001**

**Find us online at:  
[www.catholiccharitiesvc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesvc.org)**

**VENTURA COMMUNITY CENTER**

**(805) 643-4694**

**MOORPARK PANTRY PLUS**

**(805) 529-0720**

**OASIS CAMARILLO**

**(805) 987-2083**

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.  
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**Catholic Charities**  
of Los Angeles, Inc.

Ventura County

*Happy Easter!*