



## Message from the Executive Director

Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Catholic Charities has a long history of serving individuals who come to the United States seeking freedom and a better way of life for themselves and their families. We have served refugees from Hungary in the 1950s and from Vietnam in the 1970s. We have also provided affordable naturalization services to people coming from many other countries throughout the world.

On June 15, 2012, Homeland Security announced that people who arrived in the United States as children, and meet several key guidelines, may request consideration of deferred action for two years, subject to renewal, and may be eligible for work authorization. Those who can demonstrate through verifiable documentation that they fulfill these guidelines will be considered for deferred action.

Catholic Charities' Immigration Services program is working closely with parishes and social service agencies in our Archdiocese of Los Angeles in reaching out to youth eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We have provided 44 workshops in the community to educate people concerning DACA.

We are grateful for the support of staff, volunteers and benefactors who enable us to continue this invaluable service for those seeking refuge and opportunity in this great land, the United States of America. ❖

## Catholic Immigration Services Helps Refugees Obtain U.S. Citizenship

With funding from the Federal Office of Citizenship, Catholic Charities' Catholic Immigration Services (CIS) program provides citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance to lawful permanent residents. CIS's Citizenship Education Program holds classes at various public libraries and at the main office of Catholic Charities in Los Angeles.

Currently, 87,443 eligible permanent residents, able to naturalize, live in the Los Angeles/Long Beach/Santa Ana region, according to the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services, Office of Immigration Statistics. One of CIS's priorities is to assist those who apply for U.S. citizenship, who are overwhelmed due to the mystifying process, financial concerns, language barriers and fear of interviews.

CIS hosted a large-scale citizenship processing workshop at the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library in North Hills. Over 100 people attended for naturalization application services with 36 volunteers from other nonprofits, including Catholic Charities of Miami, New York and Houston, assisting. *Univision*, Spanish-language television network, *The Los Angeles Times* and



Liz King, an AmeriCorps Vista member, assists at the workshop.

*Daily News Los Angeles* were present and published articles on their websites.

CIS's citizenship efforts are building momentum with classes in downtown Los Angeles, Koreatown, Pico/Union and the San Fernando Valley. Classes at the Los Angeles Public Library are free of charge and meet for three-hour sessions for 12 weeks. For more information on citizenship programs, contact Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugee Services at (213) 251-3411. ❖

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# Catholic Charities' City of Angels Christmas Gala Honored Investees of Orders

Held at The California Club in downtown Los Angeles, this elegant and festive event honored the 2012 Investees of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Attendees enjoyed exquisite food and listening and dancing to the wonderful music of the Jay Sterling Orchestra. Proceeds are used to help the poor with food, clothes, shelter and job development. All photos are by Tom Wilmshurst. ❖



*Bishop Gerald Wilkerson, Bishop Alexander Salazar, Archbishop José Gomez, Bishop Oscar Solis and Bishop Edward Clark*



*Julie and Tom Condon, Gala Chairs and Sponsors, with Archbishop Gomez*



*Fiorenza Courtright Lucas and Chief Justice (Ret.) Malcolm Lucas, Gala Committee members and Patrons, with Archbishop Gomez*



*On the right, Michael J. Maloney, Esq., Gala Committee member and Patron, with Greg Stanislawski*



*Cathy and Paul Tosetti, Gala Committee members and Benefactors, with Archbishop Gomez*



*Maria and Richard Grant, Gala Committee members and Benefactors, enjoy the music of the Jay Sterling Orchestra.*



*Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., Catholic Charities' Board President, Gala Committee member, Benefactor, and sponsor for The California Club, was M.C. for the evening.*



*The Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey sang at the Gala, courtesy of Helen and Dr. Donal Hanley.*



*Monica and David Walsh, Gala Committee members and Benefactors*



*Frank and Kathleen McCarthy Kostlan, Gala Committee members and Patrons*



*Lawrence P. McNeil, Gala Committee member, with Archbishop Gomez*



*Harold Greene, Catholic Charities' Board member, with Archbishop Gomez and Chuckie Greene*

## Community Centers Treated Clients to Christmas Parties

Twenty children of the Adeste Child Care program at the El Santo Niño Community Center attended a Christmas party with pizza, cookies, and refreshments and received a toy from Santa Claus, aka Our Lady of the Angels Regional Director, Hector Manuel Briones. St. Margaret's Center held its annual Christmas Party at the Hollywood Park Racetrack, where 1,040 children opened gifts and enjoyed food, refreshments, games and entertainment. St. Mary's Center joined with Hope Community Church to provide a party for 90 families with food, refreshments and Santa Claus, who distributed presents. These three centers are in Our Lady of the Angels Region.



*Children gather around Santa Claus (Our Lady of Angels Regional Director, Hector Briones) at the El Santo Niño Community Center.*

San Fernando Region's Guadalupe Center's Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program helped 417 needy families with food, clothing, and toys with contributions from St. Bernardine, St. Mel and Our Lady of the Valley Catholic parishes. Forty children were able to select gifts for their parents through San Fernando Region's Guadalupe Center's Christmas Boutique. The center also hosted a Christmas party with Santa Claus and gifts for 320 children.

The San Gabriel Region served deprived families in Pomona, El Monte and East Los Angeles. In Pomona, 40 needy families were assisted through the Adopt-a-Family Program, sponsored by St. Denis Catholic Church, and 97 families were provided with a canned ham, \$50 gift card and toys. In El Monte, 125 families were given food baskets and toys. At Brownson House in East Los Angeles, 125 families were treated to food baskets, clothing, blankets, toys, diapers, baby items, hygiene products, and miscellaneous household goods. ❖



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*Our Lady of the Angels Regional Director, Hector Briones, is Santa Claus at the El Santo Niño Community Center.*

