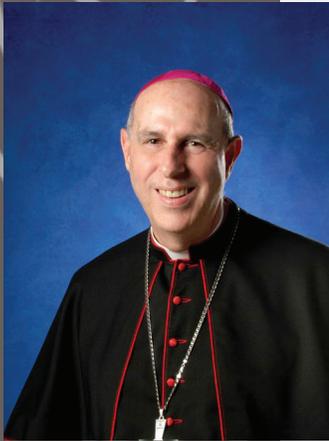




ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII  
**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
WITNESS TO JESUS

## COMMUNITY OF HOPE



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace be with you!

The theme of this year's Catholic Charities Hawaii Sunday is "Accompanying His people with joy."

With joy? But why? What is there to be joyful about? These are grim, not joyous times. A global pandemic has put us in a state of trepidation, anxiety and fear. Joy? The virus has separated and disrupted families. Joy? A broken economy has cost an unprecedented number of people their livelihood. Joy? People are going hungry and homeless. Thousands have died.

It may not seem to make sense, but it is true. Our message is a joyful one because we are people of faith, who live in the Lord's favor. This we believe. "Do not be afraid" Jesus tells us. St. Paul said, "Rejoice always, and in all circumstances, give thanks to the Lord, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

As the men and woman of Catholic Charities Hawaii help the immigrant, comfort the elderly, house the homeless, counsel the abused, assist the single parent, transport the isolated, and connect with those quarantined, behind each smile, accompanying each kind word, each gentle touch, each patient moment spent, is God's love and deep abiding mercy. Conscious of this, they are messengers of joy.

This is not simply putting on a happy face or a cheerful "mask." It is wrapping oneself in the serenity that comes from trusting in the Lord's comfort and strength. It is a spiritual joy, the kind Jesus talked about when he said, "I have told you all these things that your joy may be full."

As messengers of joy, the men and women of Catholic Charities Hawaii transform lives. Please help them. On this Catholic Charities weekend, I ask you to join them in their work with your generous support. Help spread the joy – because "God loves a cheerful giver."

In doing so, you will help those whom Catholic Charities Hawaii serves join the psalmist as he sings: "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!"

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva  
*Bishop of Honolulu*