



## **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark Hosts Centennial Leadership Summit**

*Policy makers, academics, leaders and the public gather to mark  
Catholic Charities USA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary;  
Interactive forum seeks solutions to poverty in America*

**June 23, 2010, Newark, NJ** Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark was honored to have hosted a Centennial Leadership Summit, which was part of a nationwide series celebration marking the 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA). The day-long event, which was held on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, brought together policy-makers, university professors, community leaders, social service providers, and members of the public to focus on real solutions to the national moral crisis of poverty. The Summit was attended by over 150 people.

The keynote speaker, Fr. Larry Snyder, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, was joined by Oscar de Rojas, Retired Director of Financing for Development, Secretariat of the United Nations; Charles M.A. Clark, PhD, Senior Fellow, Vincentian Center for Church and Society, Professor of Economics at St. John's University; Dr. Philip Frese, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Newark, Karen White, Director of Working Families Programs, Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University and other notable speakers and presenters at the interactive forum. The day's focus was on the issue of poverty and its devastating effects on America. Presentations and discussions were held for the purpose of identifying specific methods and programs that could work effectively to help the poorest people move toward economic independence. The goal of this multi-year, multi-faceted initiative is to cut poverty in half by 2020, urging Congress and the Administration to give a much higher priority to the needs of the poor in budget and policy decisions on issues such as health care, housing, nutrition, and economic security.

### ***Photo Exhibit/Awards Ceremony***

During the Summit, photos from the [AmericanPoverty.org](http://AmericanPoverty.org) exhibit were on display. The evocative photos helped push the hidden adversity of Americans living in poverty into greater focus for the attendees.

The Summit also included an awards presentation honoring Catholic Charities' programs that are effectively working to reduce poverty in their communities. Among the honorees was Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Newark St. Bridget's HIV/AIDS Support Network. The Newark-based program, launched in 1991, started out to meet the need of homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS. St. Bridget's provided them with a

place to go to during the day. Today it has grown into an established, multi-service community program providing access to a wide range of HIV services including case management, substance abuse services, and nutritionally-balanced meals within an emergency and transitional housing setting -- all from a single location.

Individuals served by the program are generally seeking assistance -- not simply for a one-time emergency, but for ongoing assistance, explained Ernest McCullough, St. Bridget's Program Manager, who accepted the award on behalf of the program along with Dr. Frese. "Sometimes they face crises month after month," Mr. McCullough said. "Most of our clients are unemployed, but even for those who do have jobs, the income is rarely sufficient to pay for essentials. As more and more people are stretching their resources to the breaking point, St. Bridget's HIV/AIDS Support Network is being called on to provide more and more assistance."

Mr. McCullough added that more than half of the people who visit the drop-in center are provided with assistance other than food, such as counseling, medical case management, clothing, financial literacy sessions, information and referral services. Dr. Frese added, "It was certainly a proud moment to be recognized by the Centennial Leadership Summit, and to be blessed with the recognition of our innovative project at St. Bridget's, which culminated in a recognition and a monetary award of \$25,000.00".

To see pictures from the Centennial Leadership Summit please visit the website [www.digiproofs.com](http://www.digiproofs.com) and enter the password 061710CC.

### **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit social service Agency of the Roman Catholic Church within the Archdiocese of Newark. As one of New Jersey's oldest and largest Agencies, Catholic Charities serves approximately 69,000 individuals and families each year who need assistance, and provides a greater sense of self worth and dignity to those it serves. This mission is pursued through a network of caring, effective, and well-managed social service professionals within the four counties served by the Archdiocese: Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union. Catholic Charities is a Ministry of the Church, a concrete illustration of the Church's commitment to ease suffering and bring social justice and hope to all, without regard to religion, race or culture.

For information about Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark and our programs please visit our website at [www.ccannj.com](http://www.ccannj.com).