



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
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Office of the Bishop

December 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Catholic Children's Home has served as a 'beacon of hope' for thousands of children for the past 141 years. Since 1879, through the Spanish Flu in 1918 to the Coronavirus in 2020, the Catholic Children's Home has been there to give the love and compassion these children desperately need.

Today, the Catholic Children's Home continues this mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic needs of all the children sent for residential care or special education services, including our newest program designed to serve the needs of children faced with the tremendous challenges of Autism.

The children of Catholic Children's Home have been chronically abused, designated "unmanageable" by their schools, or simply have had no place to call home. They are some of the most vulnerable in our society. The holidays are a particularly difficult time of year for these youth.

In the spirit of Christ's special affection for all children, I ask that you continue to support the work of the Catholic Children's Home and generously contribute to the special collection held at Christmas.

May God touch your hearts with his grace and mercy during these Advent and Christmas days.

Psalm 127:3 "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."

With every best wish and gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

PARISH LEADERS: Please announce my Christmas greetings and this special collection to your parishioners in your bulletins, website, or other social media platforms the weekend of on the weekend of **December 19/20, 2020** and gather it on **Christmas, December 25, 2020**. Proceeds gathered should be forwarded to the **Office for Finance** within thirty (30) days. Have a Blessed Christmas.