Partners In Charity – "In Pew" Appeal

The 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel puts Christian service in the clearest possible light. Jesus has just told His disciples a story about the Son of man coming in glory at the end of time to separate those welcome in His Kingdom from those who are not. It all comes down to lived faith, faith put into action:

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, that you do unto me."

Speaking for myself, I am just one person, one man trying to be a Christian, and I know that very often I'm not a very great Christian at that. I've never been heroic when it comes to performing the corporal works of mercy:

Feeding the hungry;

Giving drink to the thirsty;

Clothing the naked;

Sheltering the homeless;

Visiting the sick;

Visiting the imprisoned;

Burying the dead;

And so I often feel guilty that I'm more a Christian in name than in action.

But every year I am consoled that I can do my part to support those in our Church who make these works of mercy their life's work: whether through Catholic Charities or Pernet Family Health Services or Prison Chaplains or Newman Chaplaincies for College or Hospital Ministries or Diocesan Cemeteries or Nazareth Home or Youth Ministry or preparing maybe the future faith heroes among our seminarians and school students.

My gift, my pledge to Partners in Charity takes me off the sidelines of faith and right into the action of mercy and care. I may be no Christian hero, but I can help those in our diocese who day-in and day-out do serve Christ even in the least of the brothers and sisters.

What I give, what I pledge today, I give to no bishop or institution or agency. I give what I give to Jesus and to those who see Jesus, who serve Jesus in people and places that I might miss Him.

I become then a partner in that work, a partner in that service, a partner in that action, a partner in charity.

I still may be no hero, may be no great Christian, but when I give today, I give to the least of my brothers and sisters, I give to Him.