



**NEW LOCATION:** The Centre County office of Catholic Charities has relocated to this historic 1860s carriage barn in Bellefonte, across the street from Saint John The Evangelist Church. Bishop Joseph V. Adamec dedicated the facility Wednesday, October 25.

## Catholic Charities Opens Office In Bellefonte

**Photo And Text  
By Bruce A. Tomaselli**

For 66 years, Catholic Charities of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese has helped a countless number of people, by offering a variety of human services.

On Wednesday, October 25, Bishop Joseph V. Adamec blessed the agency's branch office facility in Bellefonte. The new location replaces the State College office.

"We began to realize that a large amount of our clients are in the Bellefonte, Millheim and Center Hall areas," said Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Luke Robertson, director of Catholic Charities.

The new facility has a history itself. It was built in the 1860s and used as a carriage barn. The outside is solid stone. The inside has been completely renovated.

There is nearly 4,000 square feet of office space. A large second floor will be used for meetings,



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education and local community events.

Probably one of the nicest features of the new location is that it's right across the street from Saint John The Evangelist Church. "I

think it will be a great asset to the Catholic community," said Father Luke of the new building. It also has much more parking space.

Catholic Charities office locations include: 1300 12th Street in Altoona; 741 Railroad Street in Johnstown, along with the new office on 213 East Bishop Street in Bellefonte, PA, 16823. Those wishing to contact the Bellefonte office should dial (814) 353-0502.

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There are also satellite offices at the Family Life Office in Lilly; Dorothy Day Justice Center in Loretto; Lock Haven, Huntingdon, and the Fulton County Mission, staffed by the Sisters of the Carmelite Community of the Word.

The office personnel from the State College office has made a new home in Bellefonte. "I'm happy with the new building and location and so is the staff," Father Robertson said. "The staff has put a lot of work into this new building."

Since Bellefonte is the county seat, accessing human services will be much easier for its clients.

Catholic Charities is the third largest nonprofit organization in the United States with over 1,600 local Catholic Charities agencies that serve over 6.7 million people

annually.

Catholic Charities offers individual, family, group, and marriage counseling, and crisis intervention; foster care and adoption services; assistance with women in crisis pregnancies; marriage preparation; and emergency financial assistance for things such as heat and electricity.

"You don't have to be Catholic to receive help," Father Luke reminded. "We serve Central Pennsylvanians without regard to their religious beliefs, race, ethnic origin, or financial means."

The staff of Catholic Charities is comprised of professionals, many of whom have master's degrees in counseling and social work and are licensed by the Commonwealth of the Pennsylvania and other organizations.

"I think there will be a lot of good out of this office and location," Father Robertson said.