



# Spring into Volunteering!

Are you Retired? In need of Community?  
Looking for a way to serve?

Catholic Charities is hosting a retirement volunteer club called Give & Receive and we would love to have you join us!

## Consider joining...

- Club kicks off in February 27th, 2024
- We will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday through May, with a wrap-up meeting at the beginning of June.
- Aimed at engaging retirees and seniors
- Opportunity to learn more about how Catholic Charities supports the needs of our community
- Members will serve and tour at our local service sites
- By joining this group, you will never have to serve alone, but alongside others who are in a similar stage of life
- Focus on building community through service



### Our First Meeting:

When: Tuesday, February 27th, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Catholic Charities Family Service Center located at 12 E 5th Ave.

What: We will give an overview of CCEW and what to expect when joining our Give & Receive Club

### How to Join Give and Receive:

1. Apply online at [volunteer.cceasterwa.org](http://volunteer.cceasterwa.org)
2. When applying online, Step 2 will ask if you are pre-assigned to a specific program site. Please select "Retirement Volunteer Club"
3. After submitting your application, please email Shayna at [Shayna.combs@cceasterwa.org](mailto:Shayna.combs@cceasterwa.org) to RSVP to our first meeting on February 27th.

If you have any questions please reach out to Shayna Combs  
Email: [Shayna.combs@cceasterwa.org](mailto:Shayna.combs@cceasterwa.org)  
Phone: (509)625-3535



# Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

INDIANAPOLIS  
JULY 17 - 21, 2024

with Bishop Thomas Daly and the Diocese of Spokane



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code or click Book Now to attend this historic event.



BOOK NOW!



## Lent—Taking off the Mask

*Ash Wednesday (Year B)*

“When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do... When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites... When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites...” Matthew 6:2, 5, 16

Hypocrisy is an ugly sin. Essentially, being a hypocrite is being a fraud. The word itself comes from a Greek word referring to a mask that actors wear to depict their character. The person behind the mask would pretend that they were the person depicted by the mask. Therefore, a hypocrite is one who pretends to be who they are not.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus condemns those who give alms, pray and fast for the wrong reasons. Their almsgiving is not done out of charity and a desire to help, but out of an attempt to win the praise of others. They babble prayers on the street corner in an attempt to make others think they are holy. And when they fast, they make sure that their appearance looks “gloomy” so that others are impressed. Performing charitable works, praying and fasting are certainly good actions. But these actions must be authentic. Otherwise, they are not what they appear to be, and the one doing them is nothing other than an actor wearing a mask of virtue.

As we begin our Lenten season, we are each invited to take off the masks we wear so that the real person shines forth. We are especially called to combat any spiritual hypocrisy we struggle with for two important reasons. First, when people wear a mask of holiness, pretending to be more virtuous than they are, they sometimes end up even fooling themselves. Just as an actor may become so caught up in their character that they temporarily take on that character’s thoughts and feelings, so we also can become blinded by the truth of who we are when we habitually wear a mask of holiness. When that happens, we lose sight of who we are, where we need to grow, what we need to change and even what good there is within us. Lent is an important time for regaining authentic self knowledge so that we can grow in virtue.

It is also important to take off the mask so that others will benefit from our true selves. A person who pretends to be charitable, or pretends to pray, or pretends to be holy, cannot benefit others. God cannot authentically work through a hypocrite. Though the facade of holiness may seem appealing at first, the truth is that the real you, the authentic you, is the person that others want to know and will benefit from the most. Even your weaknesses and failures, when honestly faced, will become a source of strength and blessing for others.

Reflect, today, upon who you are. As your soul stands naked before the face of God, what does God see? Who are you? What masks do you wear? What is behind that mask? Use this Lent to look more deeply into your soul so that you will discover the person you are. Don’t be afraid to discover your sins and weaknesses. And don’t be afraid to see your authentic goodness. Seek to be real this Lent, and God will be able to shine more brightly through you.

*My authentic Lord, You wear no mask, have no facade. The purity of Your divine soul shone through Your human nature as You walked the Earth, and now You call me to share in that purity. Please help me to see the ways that I hide behind false virtue, so that I can discover my true self. As I do, please transform me and shine forth through my soul for all to see. Jesus, I trust in You.*