Bishop Thomas visits Catholic Charities Encountering the Gospel
By Deacon Tim O’Callaghan

Today Bishop Thomas, in the imagery of the Gospel of Matthew, fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, cared for the brokenhearted, and visited those held captive in the poverty of loneliness.

Visiting Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, Bishop Thomas distributed meals, held a prayer service for the staff, and greeted the poor and hungry lined up for a block and a half. Reflecting on the day, he said, “I was deeply moved by the courage, compassion, and creativity of our amazing Catholic Charities staff, who have remained on the front lines from the beginning of the pandemic.” With a sense of humility, he continued, “On behalf of the entire community, I thank them.” Catholic Charities reopened today at half capacity and with no volunteers, after closing a week ago, when a man in the overnight shelter tested positive for COVID-19.

Although many Catholic Charities clients are experiencing the hardship of homelessness and the rigors of life on the streets, they are always grateful for the services provided to them. It was no different today as Bishop Thomas and staff not only handed out meals to hundreds; they greeted them with dignity and compassion, and in return received so much more. Bishop Thomas pondering said, “I was also deeply touched by so many expressions of gratitude from those lined up for hot meal, accompanied by a smile and a kind word. They especially blessed my day.”

Catholic Charities is the largest provider of Meals on Wheels in the State of Nevada, with the assistance of a large resort property, the meals continue to roll out. Not to be overlooked by Bishop Thomas, who said, “Among the hidden heroes in our community is the leadership of Wynn Las Vegas. With gratitude, he continued, “They are preparing a thousand meals a day for the poor for two weeks. Their generosity has allowed our Catholic Charities crew to keep the Meals on Wheels Program alive for the homebound during these trying days.”

With the heart of a good shepherd, Bishop Thomas said, “Finally, I am grateful to the Lord for the visionary leadership of Deacon Tom Roberts and his team. They’ve been nothing short of remarkable throughout these difficult days.” Recognizing the gifts and talents of those he encounters in the fields, and among the co-workers in the vineyard, Bishop Thomas, continued, “We have walking saints in our midst!”