



EDITORIAL

by **Monsignor William J. Linder**

A PIVOTAL YEAR

The year 2012 promises to be an extremely important one, especially for the individuals and families served by New Community. With nearly one out of every two Americans now living in poverty, our services have never been more in demand. More people than ever are living on the edge and there is a realization that 'low-income' no longer is a reality that just applies to poor, inner-city residents who have always been New Community's primary constituency.

Parents who never dreamed they would need help putting food on the table are applying for food stamps or depending on local food pantries for assistance. By the end of 2011, our Harmony House transitional living facility was pretty much at capacity with mothers and children needing a roof over their heads and the kind of holistic support services designed to help them become self-sufficient.

The 2012 presidential election will be pivotal. Already, a 'despise the poor' mentality has surfaced. One Republican candidate's idea of economic development in poor neighborhoods, for instance, is putting school children to work as janitors, cleaning the toilets and mopping the floors. It is the height of ignorance and an insult to all the hard working mothers and fathers New Community serves to have anyone suggest that poor children have no legitimate role models when it comes to hard work.

Yes, there is a lot at stake in 2012. As an organization approaching its 45th year of service to the 'poorest of the poor,' New Community continues to improve quality of life, but in a manner that leaves people with a sense of dignity and personal achievement. You can see it in the smiles of graduates of our School of Practical Nursing and in the faces of preschoolers from our early learning centers, who are provided with the kind of solid foundation that allows them to move effortlessly into kindergarten. Thanks to all of you who donated to our Annual Appeal Campaign. You may have heard that the war is over, but understand that another battle is just beginning.