



## Editorial

by Monsignor William J. Linder

### STILL COMMITTED TO THE POOR

*“For ye have the poor always with you...Matthew 26:11*

When New Community Corporation set out 41 years ago to help rebuild the Central Ward following the Newark riots, it did so with the goal of providing housing to those who could least afford it. Today, our services have expanded well beyond housing to include areas such as healthcare, job training and education. Yet, our target populations remain the same. We continue to provide low income housing to seniors and families who are simply shut out of today’s rental market. The homeless—and their numbers are growing—find refuge in our transitional living facility, Harmony House, which offers not just a place to stay, but support services designed to return families and individuals to a life of self-sufficiency.

In short, New Community remains a refuge in the inner-city for those without resources who are seeking a better life. Yes, we realize there must be efforts to attract people of all income groups into cities to help spur revitalization. That doesn’t mean, however, that poor people will somehow just go away. No matter how many new buildings are erected, poor families living in our neighborhoods will still require our assistance, perhaps now more than ever. Many are working hard and are still struggling to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

Today’s economic challenges have made it much more difficult for non-profits like New Community to provide not only affordable housing, but other basic services as well. Still, New Community remains committed to its long-held mission of helping these residents improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches and we start to count our blessings, let us not forget about the poor. For it is in remembering their plight and extending a hand that we recall these words from scripture, “In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.”