



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parishes Warned of Social Media Scam Using Catholic Charities Name

April 8, 2026 – Parishes and parishioners are urged to be alert for a scam circulating on social media in which individuals falsely claim to represent Catholic Charities and offer loans or immigration assistance in exchange for a **\$250 down payment**.

Scammers are contacting people through **WhatsApp, text messages, email, and social media platforms**, offering loans or immigration-related services and claiming the assistance is provided through Catholic Charities. These claims are **false**.

Catholic Charities and its agencies within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis *do not solicit clients through social media, do not offer loans, and do not request up-front payments through digital payment platforms such as Zelle.*

How the scam works:

- Scammers initiate contact online or by text.
- They claim to be affiliated with Catholic Charities.
- They request personal information such as a Social Security number or home address.
- They demand payment, often via Zelle or other digital payment apps.

Do Not Respond or Provide Information.

Anyone contacted by a suspected scammer should:

- **Immediately contact Catholic Charities** to report the fraud at **(317) 236-1553** or email **gcampo@archindy.org**.
- **Save the messages** as evidence, but do not engage.
- If financial information is shared, **contact your bank or credit card company immediately**.

Additional help is available through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)**, which provides resources to identify and prevent fraud in immigration services. CLINIC's national office can be reached at **301-565-4800** for local assistance.

Community members are encouraged to share this warning to help protect others from fraud.

Contact:

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