

March Leadership Message

I am honored to share this leadership reflection for an organization that has profoundly shaped my journey—a source of inspiration, transformation, and self-discovery. As spring unfolds, this moment of renewal feels even more significant. For those of us in the North, spring is more than a change in season; it is a time ripe with gifts, warmth, hope, and promise. I fondly recall my father's voice at our after-church brunch in NW Pennsylvania, sharing the "minutes of sunlight gained today." It was his way of marking progress, a reminder that even in the coldest months, light finds its way back to us. For those curious, this February we gained 87 minutes of sunlight. And yes, my father still calls with updates.

Beyond the gift of warmth and light, spring stirs something deeper within us. It awakens a quiet urgency—an impulse to do more, to reach higher, to begin again. It is a season that invites us to plant new seeds, to breathe life into dormant dreams, and to recommit to the work that calls us forward.

For 15 years, Catholic Charities has been that source of inspiration and growth in my life. For nearly a decade, I worked alongside Gonzaga student-athletes volunteering here, as they forged meaningful connections with select programs. In recent years, I have been privileged to stand alongside other programs, supporting, building, and tackling new endeavors that stretch us.

Perhaps no initiative has pushed me further—or inspired me more—than the Spokane Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Network (SEEN). This new collaboration between the University of Notre Dame, Gonzaga University, and Catholic Charities Eastern Washington is built on a simple but powerful premise: all dreams deserve a chance. A few weeks ago, I attended the 2025 Entrepreneur Bootcamp in South Bend, Indiana—a gathering of over 90 aspiring low-income entrepreneurs. They had no formal business education, no capital to invest, only their hands, their hearts, and an unshakable determination to create something better.

In that room, inspiration was not just spoken—it was felt. The air was charged with possibility. Strangers became allies, ideas became blueprints, and hope became action. It was a transformation I have witnessed many times before—in our leadership meetings, in the quiet moments between program updates during a call or Zoom, and in the simple but powerful hallway conversations throughout our agency where passion and purpose intersect.

This spring, as the days grow longer and the light stretches further, I invite you to pause. Let the sunlight remind you of what we are here to do. We bring light where there is darkness. We offer hope after the fall. We lend strength to the weary. We stand as pillars for those who have none.

Let us step forward with purpose, with love in our hearts, and with the unwavering belief that even the smallest spark can set the world ablaze.

The Hope of Spring

God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.

Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.

Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.

This is what our calendar says, and we do see some signs that it is real.

But we also still struggle with the residual layover of winter.

Now we ask that you bring into reality all that belongs in this season. Your word says that we will have provision, and hope, and joy, and health and loving relationships here and now in this life.

We ask that what belongs in this season would become actual in our practical lives.

We hope in you and in your promises. We hope in your gift of Spring.

- Author Unknown

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