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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fraudulent Email alert

Email requesting personal information not from Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis

(MINNEAPOLIS – Feb. 17, 2009) A recent email sent under Catholic Charities’ name soliciting personal information from recipients is fraudulent. These email solicitations are not connected with, nor approved by, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis or Catholic Charities USA.

The fraudulent email announces recipients have received a grant. These emails are designed to solicit personal, financial and banking information from the recipients. An example of the fraudulent email is attached. The email is similar to other fraudulent emails sent in December of 2007.

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Catholic Charities USA do not send unsolicited emails requesting this type of information. Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis sends email to people only with the recipients’ approval. Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis never asks contributors to provide personal information via email.

Contributions made to Catholic Charities through the www.cctwincities.org Web site are secure. Questions can be directed to 612.664.8556.

Catholic Charities annually meets the needs of 40,000 people, regardless of faith. The agency’s programs provide services ranging from prenatal care to in-home care for the elderly in 12 counties in and around the Twin Cities. Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis is a member of Catholic Charities USA and was honored by the Charities Review Council for meeting the Council's strict accountability standards, demonstrating responsibility, integrity and transparency as a non-profit organization. Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation. More information on Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis can be found at www.cctwincities.org.

Examples of Fraudulent Email

Please note more than one email with similar information may be circulating. An example is below.

From: John C Gerspach <infoweb@ccf.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:47:27 PM
Subject: CATHOLIC CHARITIES 2009 AWARD
The Catholic Foundation

As way of improving living condition, The Catholic Foundation will be giving out \$2.5 million dollars each to you and 3 other benefactors in the Catholic Charities Project helping you to reach others around your location.

For further inquiry, contact the Program Coordinator secretary

Names; Address; Cell#; Age and Occupation.

Honorable Richard Bates
Email: catholic.charitygrantproject@gmail.com
(Secretary and Treasurer Program Coordinator)

Rev John C Gerspach