



# The Thomas Merton Center

*Serving the men, women and children of Greater Bridgeport for over 40 years!*

*Living is the constant adjustment of thought to life and life to thought in such a way that we are always growing, always experiencing new things in the old and old things in the new.*

*Thomas Merton*

*2015 is shaping up to be a very busy year. Now more than ever we need your help. This year we are on pace to providing almost 550,000 meals in our soup kitchen and food pantry.*



## **Dear Friends of The Thomas Merton Center:**

*It has been six months since my return to The Thomas Merton Center and thus far it has been interesting and exciting. First, I would like to thank you with all my heart for your generous donations and commitment to helping individuals and families that come to us asking our help. I am constantly amazed at how much we have accomplished together since The Thomas Merton Center opened its doors in 1974. You are true champions in the fight against hunger in Lower Fairfield County. As we embark on a new year please remember our work is not done. Though the economy has gotten better for some, many are still suffering especially children.*

*Often, many of us want to hear stories of our successes. Well, we have wonderful stories to share of persons who are lost and find themselves in a dark place unable to maintain employment, or struggling with mental health conditions. These persons regularly visit The Merton Center for food and social interactions. During their time here they become consumed with the warmth and compassion shown by volunteers and staff. Many of our guests are truly amazed that others care about them, which helps them begin to believe in themselves. For many, including*

*myself The Merton Center hold a special place in the heart. This powerful connection links us as a community, bound together for a common goal that changes lives one minute, one hour, and one day at a time.*

*Because of our relationship we have been able to meet the needs of many families for food. As we look towards the future, the goal is to continue being a primary source for food in the Bridgeport community.*

*Though we are proud and grateful for all the support from individuals, corporations, foundations, churches, synagogues, social organizations and community partners, we are continually faced with the mission of meeting the growing needs of families. We are confronted with significant increases in costs to maintain our current services and facility. Currently we operate out of the old St. Joseph's Church at the end of Madison Avenue. The building is almost 100 years old. As expected we are faced with increases in cost every year. At the start of our new fiscal year we will be faced with a deficit of at least \$125,000.*

*As we forge ahead together committed to serving the poor and less fortunate please consider not only their needs, but the challenges The Thomas Merton Center has for the future. In order for us to fulfill our shared vision of feeding all those who are hungry we must remain steadfast and continue demonstrating as a community that "WE CARE."*

*Thanks again for your compassion, warmth, generosity, and commitment to The Thomas Merton Center.*

*Your humble servant,  
Dr. Brian Jenkins  
Executive Director  
The Thomas Merton Center*



The Thomas Merton Center  
is a program of  
Catholic Charities of  
Fairfield County, Inc.





# The Thomas Merton Center

43 Madison Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
(203) 367-9036

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Bridgeport, CT  
Permit #382

Spring 2015

The Thomas Merton Center

## *Save The Date*

*The 2015 Merton Center  
Celebrity Breakfast is set  
for Wednesday May 20th,  
from 7:30am-9:00am at  
the Holiday Inn on Main  
Street, Bridgeport, CT.*

*For additional informa-  
tion please call Janet  
Barker at The Merton  
Center (203)367-9036  
ext. 15*



### Check us out online:

[www.themertoncenter.org](http://www.themertoncenter.org)

Facebook: Under

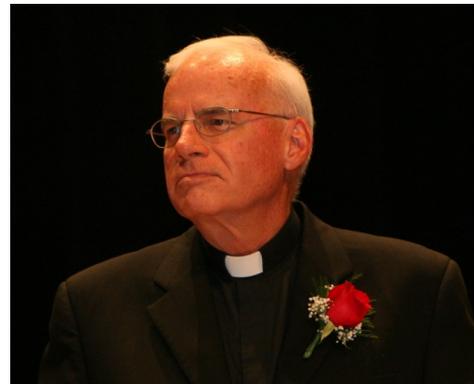
"The Thomas Merton Center"

Catholic Charities:

[www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org)

## 2015 Merton Center Celebrity Breakfast is approaching!

Our 21st Annual Celebrity Breakfast has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 from 7:30am-9am at the Holiday Inn on Main Street in Bridgeport.



Our keynote speaker this year is Father Charles Allen. Father Allen has been a long time supporter of The Thomas Merton Center. While teaching at Fairfield Prep in 1977, Fr. Allen had the opportunity to volunteer with a group of students at The Merton Center on Thanksgiving day for the first time and the rest is history. .

He has become known as our "world class auctioneer and fundraiser" and has become a permanent part of the Annual Celebrity Breakfast Fundraiser. This year we are honoring Fr. Allen's work and service in our community. We hope you can join us! For more information, please call The Merton Center at 203-367-9036 ext. 15.