Embracing Catholic Education & Meaningful Employment for All

October 31 | 2026

# October Newsletter




Dear Friends,

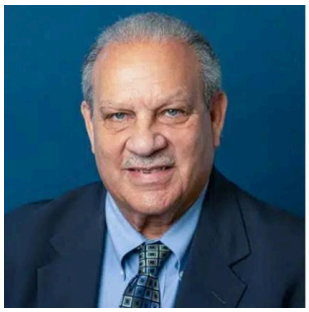
We wish all children a wonderful time trick-or-treating! Earlier this month, we had the joy of gathering for our All Saints' Day celebration. We thank Bishop Ireton High School for generously providing the space, and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America at the Basilica of St. Mary, who beautifully decorated their cars and provided treats to more than 40 children who joined us. Be sure to check out the photos below to see the bright smiles and festive spirit from the event!

Looking ahead, we warmly invite you to join us for our annual Christmas party on December 5th. It is always a wonderful time of fellowship for our special needs families and supporters across the diocese. You can register using this link—we can't wait to celebrate the season with you!

As we build on our recent investments of $750,000 in school grants, scholarships, and job development, we invite you to take your impact even further by joining our **new monthly giving program, the *Circle of Belonging***. For as little as $5 or $10 a month, you can help fund parish religious education, teacher special education training, and customized employment programs. Enrolling takes just a minute, and as a member, you'll receive a special gift and

recognition in our Annual Report. Click the link below to start your monthly gift today and help us build a culture of true belonging!

On behalf of Porto Charities, I want to thank you for ensuring that every individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities is welcomed, celebrated, and supported. Where the world sees limits, we see promise—and it is through your ongoing kindness that we continue opening doors to Catholic education, faith formation, and meaningful work throughout the Diocese of Arlington.



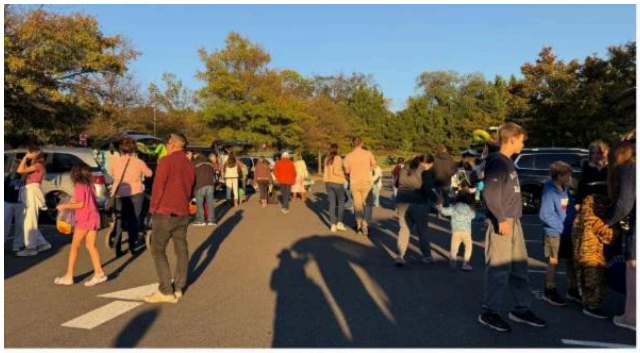
With Gratitude:

*Leo Alonso*

**President & CEO**
*Porto Charities*

**Join the New Circle of Belonging**

## All Saints Celebration















## Article Spotlight

Learn about CC and Maggie's lives through the stories told by their mothers, Erin Mullen and our very own Kathryn Doherty, Chief Operating Officer at Porto Charities. These mothers share how their daughters with disabilities have transformed their lives, affirming the dignity of every human life.

**Read the Article**

## Board Member Spotlight

Therese Fimian

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, making it the perfect time to highlight a board member who has been instrumental in shaping our employment initiative. We are proud to feature Therese Fimian, whose expertise and guidance have been key in developing Customized Employment as a core pillar of our PortoWorks program.



Therese has dedicated over 25 years to advancing the disability employment field. As President of Marc Gold & Associates, she leads an organization deeply committed to expanding access to inclusive employment, providing training, technical assistance, certification, and consulting services for individuals with significant disabilities.

Throughout her career, Therese has partnered with organizations, families, and individuals to create and share innovative practices that drive real economic empowerment and community inclusion. Her vision and decades of hands-on experience have strengthened PortoWorks and expanded meaningful career pathways for the individuals we serve. Therese is passionate about our mission, and we are so honored to have her on our team.

## Upcoming Events




Join Zoom




Questions?

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Register




Register

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From Inclusion to Belonging
CONFERENCE ON DISABILITY

**February 6, 2027**
St. Paul VI Catholic High School
*Chantilly, VA*




**Register**

## Support Porto's 2nd Collection in Your Parish!

Special Kids / Special Needs Campaign




**November 21-22**
**St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church**

**November 28-29**
**St. Bernadette Catholic Church**

Please consider supporting our Special Kids/Special Needs Campaign. 100% of all proceeds support programs for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington.

**Make a Gift to SK/SN Campaign**

*Don't forget to write your parish in the memo line!*

## Support Our Mission




**Enroll in Monthly Giving**

**Make a One-Time Gift**

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## Follow us on social media!

**Visit our Website**

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