

Congratulations!



2025 Voice of Hope Award Recipient

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH, CANFIELD

A Voice of Hope in Our Community

Catholic Charities is proud to recognize Saint Michael Parish in Canfield as a distinguished recipient of the Voice of Hope Award. This honor celebrates those whom embody the mission of Catholic Charities, bringing light, faith, and service to their communities. Very Reverend John-Michael Lavelle, pastor of Saint Michael Parish, will accept the award on behalf of the church.

For over 60 years, Saint Michael Parish has maintained a strong tradition of outreach, serving those in need through initiatives such as the Saint Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, seasonal food programs, and various charitable collections in collaboration with Catholic Charities. Under Father Lavelle's leadership, the parish continues its commitment to fostering faith-driven service and generosity.

Father Lavelle highlights the importance of engaging young people in service through Faith Formation programs. "One of our most meaningful activities has been working with our young people—helping them recognize the needs of others and take action," he shared. A particularly impactful initiative was the 'Birthday Bag' project, where children learned about peers who may not have the same opportunity to celebrate birthdays and then assembled kits with all the essentials for a birthday celebration.

Receiving the Voice of Hope Award holds special significance for Saint Michael Parish, especially in this Year of Jubilee. "Both the parish and I have separately received a Voice of Hope award in the past. However, in this Year of Jubilee, when we are all called to be Pilgrims of Hope, it is especially rewarding to not only be recognized but encouraged to continue together on the journey to bring hope to the lives of others."

When asked what inspires the parish's continued mission, Father Lavelle pointed to faith as the guiding force. "I believe the greatest inspiration comes from the opportunity to every day hear the Word of God, be nourished by the Body of Christ, and then to go forth on mission to allow that Word and Sacrament to take root in others' lives. Our Holy Father's encyclical Dilexit Nos reminds us how much 'He Loved us!' We are called to not only be recipients of that love but to share that love in the world."

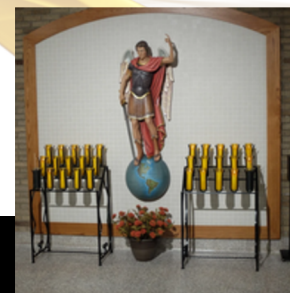
Reflecting on the honor of Saint Michael Parish being named a Voice of Hope, Father Lavelle humbly stated, "We are extremely humbled to be called a Voice of Hope – not as recognition of past activities, or as acknowledgment of current projects, but as encouragement for future endeavors to joyfully bring hope to the lives of all our brothers and sisters in need."



Very Reverend John-Michael Lavelle
Pastor, Saint Michael Parish, Canfield



www.stmichaelcanfield.org



Saint Michael
Defender of God and Church