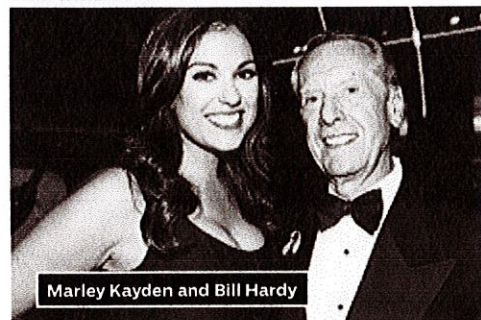


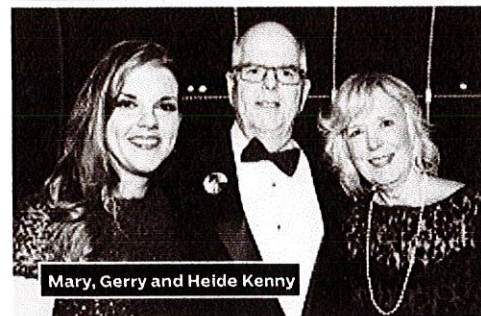
Juan Carlos Alonso and Nicole Alonso



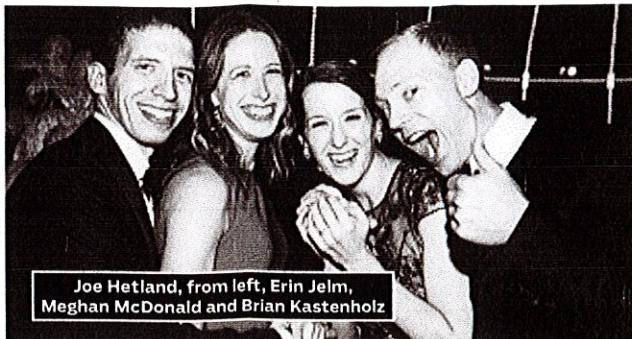
Veronica Bruce and Brian and Kelly McHale



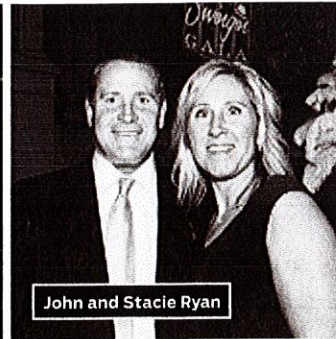
Marley Kayden and Bill Hardy



Mary, Gerry and Heide Kenny



Joe Hetland, from left, Erin Jelm, Meghan McDonald and Brian Kastenholz



John and Stacie Ryan

## Candid Candace

BY CANDACE JORDAN  
Chicago Tribune



# Catholic Charities gala supports the needy

The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago hosted its 15th annual Gala of the Arts on Sept. 9 in Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom with a record crowd of nearly 600. The event raised more than \$300,000 for Catholic Charities' emergency assistance programs and included the presentation of the Mandatum Award to Deacon Stan Strom, chief of staff at Holy Name Cathedral, for his dedication and service to those in need.

During a reception, guests enjoyed an art show and sale that featured original paintings and photographs by 16 locally and nationally recognized artists. A highlight of the show was the "After Supper: Visions of My Life" exhibit. These pieces are created by homeless artists who receive services through Catholic Charities. Proceeds from the sale of their artwork go directly to them.

The gala was chaired by Jim Serritella, whose son Anthony shared the significance of the event his parents co-founded in 2001: "Whether you're that first soldier about to land at Normandy, that Navy Seal about to break down a door not knowing what's on the other side or someone who stays late at a mission to bring that last person in before they freeze to death, God lives right at the front lines, and so do Catholic Charities. They're always there, front and center, fighting injustice and helping others after everything else has failed."

Monsignor Michael Boland, president of Catholic Charities, welcomed guests and spoke about the charity's outreach. "Every 30 seconds, someone calls us for help in the city or from our suburban communities. We serve the poorest of the poor. It's very humbling."

The monsignor presented the Mandatum Award, the charity's highest honor, to Strom for his longtime dedication and service to those in need.

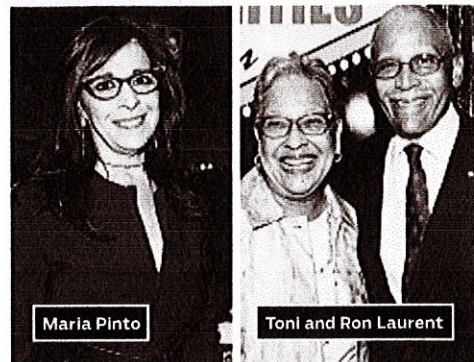
Catholic Charities' emergency assistance programs provide food, clothing, emergency shelter and financial help to those in need.

*Freelance writer Candace Jordan is involved with many local organizations, including some whose events she covers.*

### More online

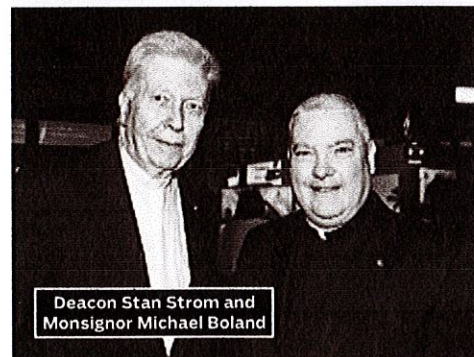
Find more photos and video of this event at [www.chicagotribune.com/candicandace](http://www.chicagotribune.com/candicandace)

KRISTAN LIEB/PHOTOS FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

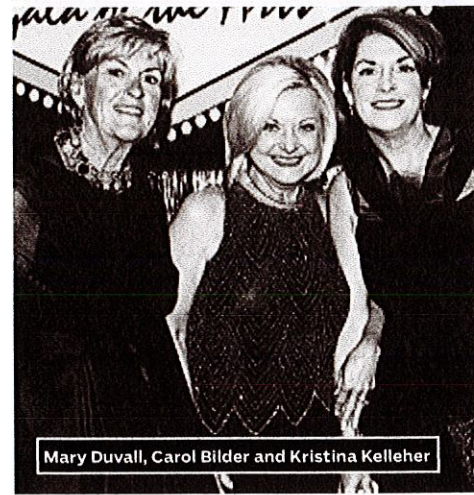


Maria Pinto

Toni and Ron Laurent



Deacon Stan Strom and Monsignor Michael Boland



Mary Duvall, Carol Bilder and Kristina Kelleher