



Office of the Common Council

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Wisconsin State Journal
Letter to the Editor
PO Box 8058
Madison WI 53708-8058

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my shock at Bishop Robert Morlino's abrupt decision to close the Catholic Multi-Cultural Center on Park Street in my aldermanic district.

Citing the very challenging economic times that we are all experiencing, the Diocese issued a press release this past Wednesday announcing Diocese-wide cuts and the closing of the Multi-Cultural Center. They neglected to include in their press release that the center would be closing this Friday, a mere two days after their announcement.

The center has operated in Madison since the 1940's. The center employs seven people and is supported by the work of hundreds of faithful volunteers. At its current location on South Park Street since the 1950's, the center serves free meals to 1,600 people per month and operates several food pantries that assist hundreds of families in need a month. The Multi-Cultural Center offers English language and GED classes, church services in Spanish and English, and provides important preventative medical care for people in need.

The center's impact on the health and well being of so many Madison families cannot be over-stated.

I am shaken by the two-day notice that the Diocese gave to its employees and hundreds of users of the center and have to ask Bishop Morlino where will these people go? Who will feed them? Where will they go to pray and receive spiritual guidance? Who will assist the most vulnerable among us in these times of great need?

Julia S. Kerr, Alder
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