



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Packers partner with Catholic Charities for 55th annual Bishop's Charities Game

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Aug. 25, 2015) – On Thursday, September 3, the Packers will host the New Orleans Saints for the 55th annual Bishop's Charities Game at Lambeau Field. Over the years, the Bishop's Charities Game has raised approximately \$3.7 million for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay. General ticket sales should be directed to Packers.com, the Packer ticket office or any Ticketmaster outlet.

The charitable contest began in 1961 when the diocese approached Vince Lombardi with the idea. For 34 of those years, the Bishop's Charities Game committee – led by the late Jim Hogan – sold tickets for the game and produced the game program, including the sales of all advertising for the program. These efforts were so important not only to those in need, but also to making the preseason games a success for the Packers. The efforts of many who served on the committee created tremendous fundraising success for Catholic Charities. Beginning in 1995, the Packers took over responsibility for all preparations.

Over the past 20 years, the Packers organization has generously continued to support Catholic Charities through an annual contribution supporting those in need in our community. "We take this opportunity to thank the Packers for their ongoing support of the charitable works of the Diocese of Green Bay," said Denis Hogan, son of Jim Hogan and general chair of the Bishop's Charities Game.

The long-standing partnership between the Green Bay Packers and the Diocese of Green Bay through its charitable efforts shows the commitment and concern that both organizations have toward the well-being, health and vitality of the community. "This partnership has helped thousands of people overcome some of life's most devastating and challenging struggles," said Ted Phernetton, director of Catholic Charities.

Bishop David L. Ricken and Packers alumni Tony Fisher and Gerry Ellis will be available from 3:30-5 p.m. for autographs and photos at the Fan Walkway outside the Tundra Tailgate Zone on the southeast side of the stadium. Complimentary autograph cards will be provided courtesy of The Compass, the official newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay.

Tony Fisher played for the Green Bay Packers from 2002 to 2005 after signing with the team as an undrafted rookie out of the University of Notre Dame, where he was a two-time finalist for the Doak Walker Award honoring the top running back in college football. Fisher finished his college career as the 17th leading rusher in Fighting Irish history. In his four seasons with the Packers, Fisher appeared in 60 career games, rushing for 880 yards and four TDs on 235 carries. He caught 125 passes for 1,059 yards and 5 TDs. Fisher also played one season for the St. Louis Rams and now serves as the Packers community outreach department's player/alumni senior coordinator.

Gerry Ellis, a 7th round draft pick in the 1980 NFL draft, played seven years for the Packers. He is a native of Columbia, Missouri, where he attended the University of Missouri. Ellis had 3,826 rushing yards in his NFL career and was inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame in 1994. Following his playing career, Ellis worked as a construction worker. Since retiring, he is part of the band "Big Mouth and the Power Tool Horns." Ellis and his

band play locally and around the state. In his spare time he enjoys golfing, fishing and entertaining people. Ellis currently resides in De Pere, WI.

In addition to these festivities, Packerland Thrivent Action Team is sponsoring a Packers-themed clothing drive to benefit Catholic Charities. Children's clothing in all sizes is welcome and appreciated. Game day drop-off will be from 1-7p.m. at Ski's Meat Market, 2201 S. Oneida St. There will be coupons, music, prizes, and pre-game fun. Green Bay drop-off locations now through the end of September include: Catholic Charities, 1825 Riverside Dr.; Thrivent Financial, Packerland Office, 611 Packerland Dr.; Crystal Coffee, 2625 Packerland Dr.; Breadsmith, 2674 S. Oneida St. and 345 Cardinal Lane.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay serves people of all faiths within 16 counties in northeastern Wisconsin by providing services such as individual and family counseling, adoption, family strengthening, refugee and immigration services, and financial health counseling.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

Contact: Justine Lodl, director of communications, at 920-272-8213 or jlodl@gbdioc.org; or Sarah Bradford, communications coordinator, at 920-272-8209 or sbradford@gbdioc.org.