



Dear Friend in Christ,

Every year the Diocese of Rockville Centre conducts the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) to help raise funds for the various programs that help people across Long Island. While Our Lady of Lourdes is our local family of faith, the Diocese is our extended family. Since we are a part of the Diocese of Rockville Centre we must do our part to help the Diocese through the financial support of the CMA.

Many of you may have misgivings about giving to the CMA because of uncertainty of where the money might be used. I can assure you that 100% of all money raised for the CMA is restricted to serve the objectives, programs and mission supported by the Diocese. Through the CMA we are creating pathways to faith that touches so many in our community including the 133 parishes and more than 600,000 people each year. Such pathways include:

- ◇ Affordable and safe housing for senior, veterans and adults with mental and physical disabilities.
- ◇ Food programs for senior, low-income families and women and their children.
- ◇ Priests', Deacons' (such as Deacon Rich Portuese and Deacon Greg Fewer) and Lay Leaders' education and formation.
- ◇ Faith Formation, including Baptismal Preparation, Pre-Cana and RCIA Programs.
- ◇ Hospital ministry to help chaplains like our Fr. Eugene to serve those who are ill and their families.
- ◇ Prison Ministry.
- ◇ Substance abuse services and day treatment programs.

There is no organization or body on Long Island that provides the breadth and depth of spiritual and social services to so many individuals and families as the Catholic Church. Pope Francis calls us to receive and give Christ's mercy so we become the Hands of Mercy to those in need. Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal will extend Christ's mercy throughout our Long Island Community and our Universal Church. Only you can prayerfully decide your gift amount.

Additionally, the CMA gives back a share of the donated funds to individual parishes. If Our Lady of Lourdes meets its goal, we receive a rebate that can be used at our discretion for what is best for our parish. This is a Win-Win scenario. This year I am pleased to announce that our CMA goal as set by the Diocese is \$75K down from the \$83K our previous goal in 2020. We hope to raise at least \$60K and reach 600 donors. Will you help us? You can use your credit card for payment via a secure online donation page at CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call the CMA office at (516)678-5800 Ext. 296. Credit card payments can be made monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually.

Thank you so much for considering the Catholic Ministries Appeal. May God bless you for your generosity.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Jim & the OLL Catholic Ministries Appeal Team