



2017  
Annual Report

# *Celebrating*



# The Greatest Gift

My Dear Friends:

**T**he great American author Flannery O'Connor once observed, "You will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's sufferings and not your own".

That brings to mind the earliest days of our Church when service to the poor was widely regarded as one of the most powerful ways to intimately know our Lord. In fact, Christians lived that conviction so enthusiastically that they became renowned for the remarkable love and generosity they showed to *all people*. It was this extraordinary spirit that inspired millions of non-believers to convert to our faith. However beautiful the music, cathedrals, or processions were, it was the unyielding love for the poor, kindness to widows and orphans, and care for the sick that ultimately gave greatest witness to Christ's love for us here on earth.

Things are no different today. For more than 60 years, Catholic Charities has continued loving the most vulnerable of every faith and background right here on Long Island and that love remains the clearest evidence of God's grace in our lives. There is still no better way to come into communion with our Lord and to feel His presence than by serving His people. The greatest gift of service is that which it bestows on the giver.

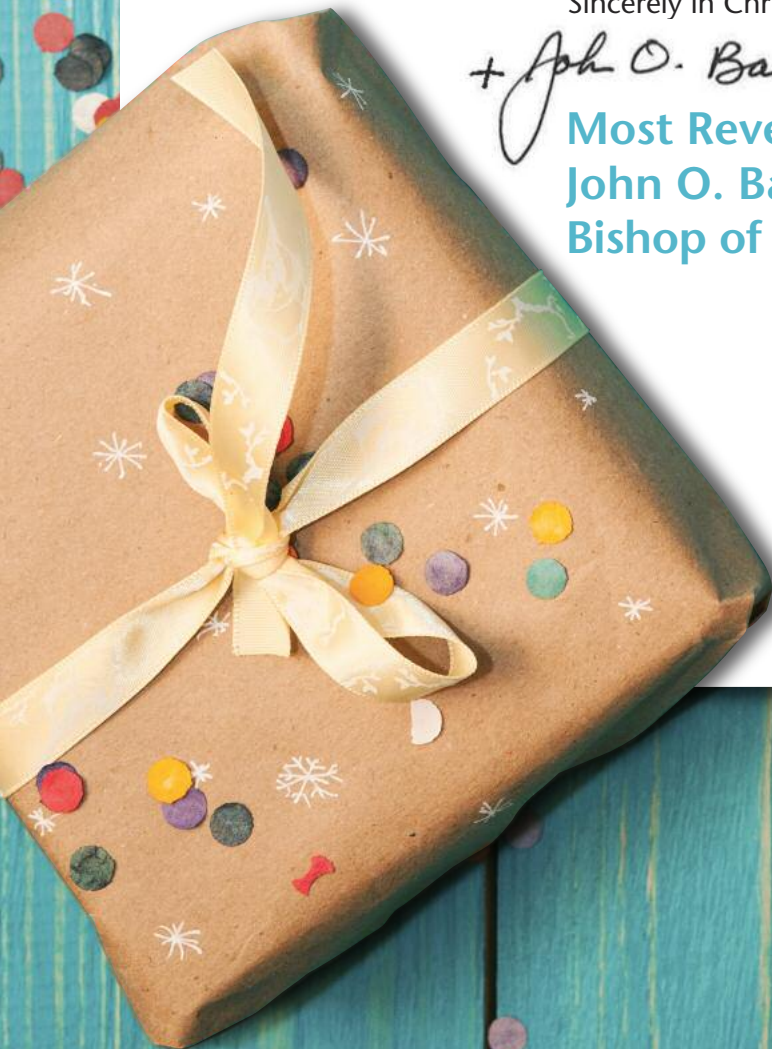
In that light, I leave you with the words of Pope Benedict who wrote, "Love of neighbor is a path that leads to the encounter with God".

My prayer is that our mission of unconditional love will bring us closer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and help lead to *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *John O. Barres*

**Most Reverend  
John O. Barres,  
Bishop of Rockville Centre**



## *Practicing charity is the best way to evangelize.*

*- Pope Francis*

Dear Friends,

**Once** read a fascinating article about a couple that had been married for 65 years. Asked for the secret to their longevity they likened their relationship to a “pair of comfortable, old shoes.” They explained that while people typically seek out novelty, true satisfaction could only be had when we use “fresh eyes” to find meaning in things we otherwise take for granted.

As I contemplate Catholic Charities’ 60th anniversary, this philosophy might also characterize our relationship with Long Island. After so many years people certainly know us well enough that we might sometimes go unnoticed. Yet they’re also surprised when they learn exactly how much we do. With 11 ministries that frame dozens of different programs and services, everything from maternity care to senior centers, there’s a lot to notice when you take a closer look.

More important though, is how we at Catholic Charities use “fresh eyes” to assess Long Island’s changing needs and how we reshape ourselves to address those issues.

Take for example, the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 90’s. We led the response with a dental clinic, day programs and even specialized housing. The aftermath of 9/11? We ministered to the spiritual, physical, and psychological needs of thousands of New Yorkers for years after. And when Superstorm Sandy ravaged our communities, Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre quickly became the largest disaster relief organization in the state.

Sadly, there are always new, heartbreaking challenges. Fortunately, Catholic Charities is always ready and willing to reinvent our efforts to meet them. The one part of the formula that never changes is Christ. Every single person who walks through our doors gives us a chance to see Jesus in them. And each gives us the opportunity to share His love with the world.

In that light, I thank you for making Catholic Charities a part of the fabric of Long Island. It means we’ve made Christ’s love a familiar part of people’s everyday lives. But I also invite you to take a closer look with “fresh eyes” that you might witness the beauty of His abundant love everywhere.

Gratefully yours,



Laura A. Cassell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre



*The master then ordered the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled.'*

– Luke 14:23

**“W**here’s George?” That’s a question you often hear at Catholic Charities. The “George” everyone’s looking for is George Reich, a retired New York City Police Officer turned diocesan deacon who has served Catholic Charities since 1998 and whose gentle and attentive demeanor put him in high demand.

“George ministers in every conceivable situation, not just to clients but to our staff as well. He’s the spiritual caretaker for anyone connected to Catholic Charities,” explains Diane Ammirati, our Director of Disability Services. “If a resident loses a family member, George goes to them. If a staff member has a baby, they ask George to baptize the child. Tragedies like 9-11? George ministered to family members for years. Weddings, funerals, times of grief or joy, George goes when people call, no questions asked. They turn to him when they need support and when he gets there you feel Jesus is right there with him.

But ask George and he’ll tell you that he’s the lucky one. “I get to see God’s care, concern and compassion every single day because Catholic Charities is a reflection of that. At the heart of our work is the spirit of this loving God and if I can show people His face then I’m the privileged one.”

For nearly 20 years this quiet and unassuming friend has indeed brought the love of Christ to everyone and anyone who calls on him. In a very real way he lives Christ’s mandate to, “Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled.” (Luke 14:23) Predictably humble, George replies, “I don’t lay claim to any of that. We’re all looking for the grace of heaven—not at the end of our lives like everyone thinks – but right now, while we’re living. I just want to be a part of that by bringing people hope.”



Chemical Dependence Services*	5,124 served
Disaster Response.....	153 served
Food and Nutrition Services .....	17,087 served
Housing* .....	4,042 served
Immigrant Services/Refugee Resettlement ..	27,895 served
Mental Health Outpatient Services .....	1,895 served
Mental Health Residential Services* .....	145 served
Parish Social Ministry** .....	1,617 served
Regina Maternity Services* .....	176 served
Residential Services for People With Developmental Disabilities* .....	271 served
Senior Services .....	3,995 served

\*Many participants in these programs receive round-the-clock, residential care.

\*\*The Parish Social Ministry staff also supported parish programs that serve people in their local communities by holding trainings and conferences that were attended by 3,147 people.

In 2017,  
Catholic Charities  
of Rockville Centre  
provided more than  
**1.4 million** caring,  
face-to-face services  
to **62,400** neighbors.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a ministry of the Roman Catholic Church, Catholic Charities assists in serving the basic needs of the poor, troubled, weak, and oppressed and is committed to addressing the causes of injustice. We aim to organize and empower people to secure the participation of all in the life of the community.



# Lights in the darkness

## **\$500,000 – \$1,000,000**

Catholic Charities USA

## **\$100,000 – \$499,999**

Anonymous Couple  
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Long Island Community  
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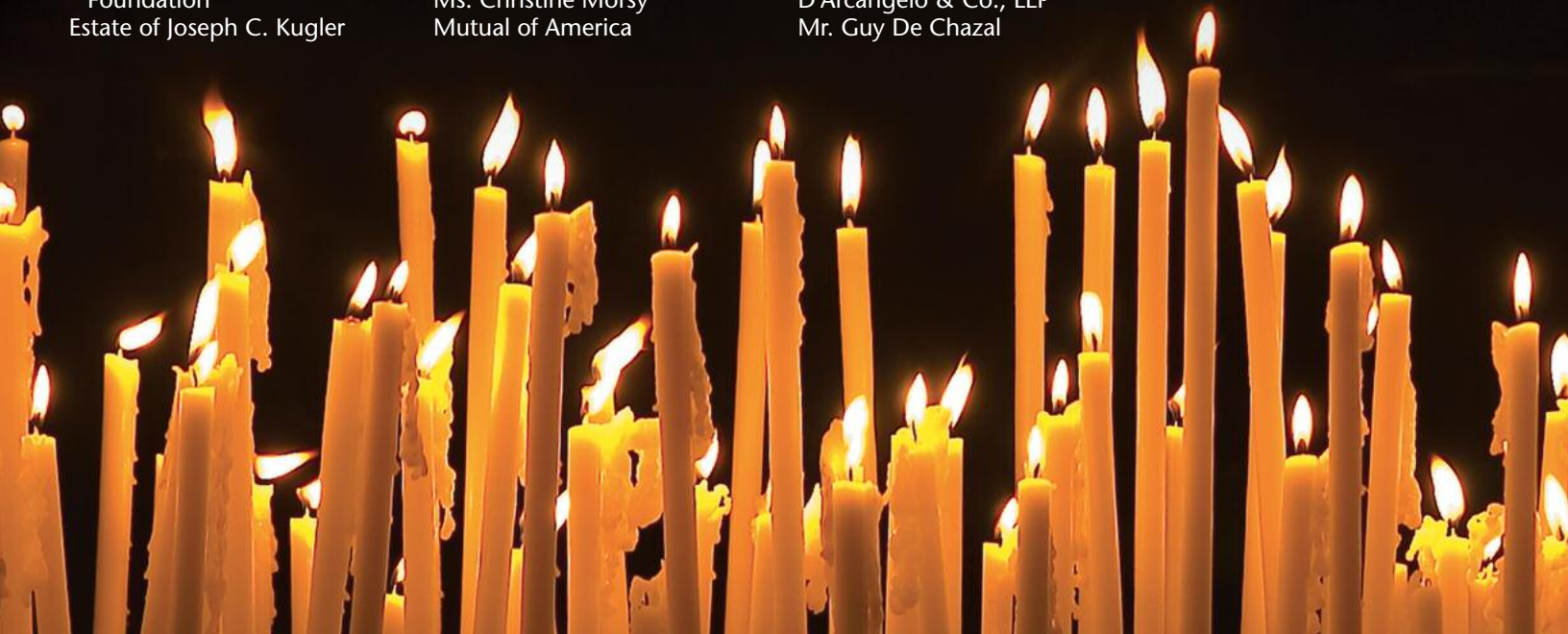
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We are grateful for the many thousands of smaller gifts, too many to list here. We've made every effort to ensure that all the information here is complete and accurate. If you feel there may be an error, please contact us at (516) 733-7042.



*Have mercy on me, God, have mercy on me.  
In you I seek refuge. In the shadow of your  
wings I seek refuge till harm pass by.*

– Psalms 57:1

## Shelter from the Storm

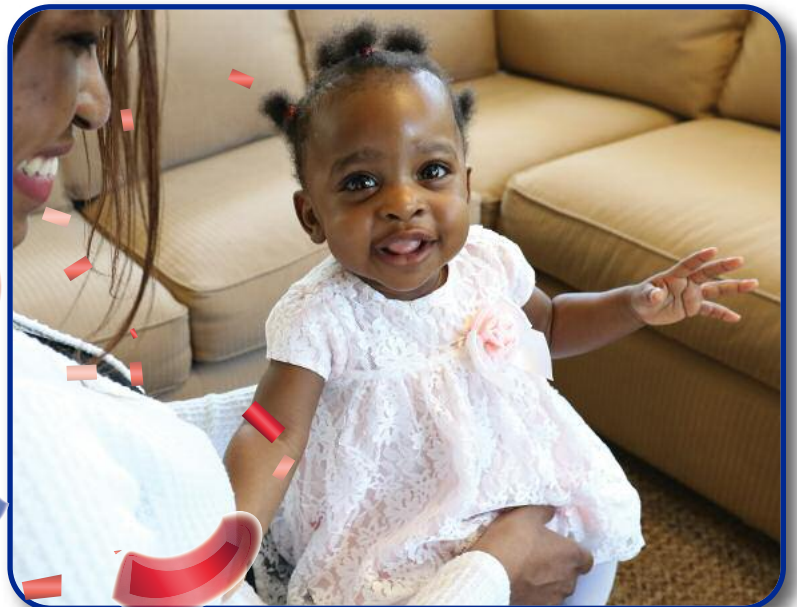
**D**embe was keeping a dangerous secret. For months she had been visiting Mt. Sion Centre in Bukalango, a Catholic Eucharistic shrine near her home in Uganda. Pregnant with her third child she loved that she could nurture her new devotion freely there, studying and even openly seeking spiritual direction. But Dembe came from a devout Muslim family and she worried her change of faith would have disastrous consequences.

She finally confessed her conversion to her husband who, moved by her strong conviction, supported her plan to tell family and friends. But the situation deteriorated rapidly. Her family immediately cut all ties while his grew angry and quickly turned everyone in their small community against them. Soon they were not only ostracized but regularly victimized.

People would routinely curse and spit at them. Neighbors would throw stones as they walked in the street. Once, while her husband was at work, a group of men forced Dembe into a car and drove to a remote farm where they threw her into a pile of animal dung and mud. She wept uncontrollably as she walked the entire way home alone, knowing she was now in irrefutable danger. "They told me they'd kill all of us if I didn't renounce my faith. I knew I had to do something." So Dembe came to the United States seeking religious asylum.

When she arrived, still eight months pregnant, she was sleeping on the floor of a friend's basement. A hospital social worker heard her plight and called Catholic Charities' Regina Residence, our home for young mothers in crisis pregnancy. There she was welcomed with open arms and found unconditional love for her and her newborn baby, Maria. Not long after, our Immigrant and Refugee Legal Services heard her history and decided to represent Dembe in her quest for asylum.

Today, Dembe is awaiting a decision on her status with great hope. "At that shrine they told me God would not let harm come to me or my family; that He would always care for me. It's true. With Catholic Charities I have God's arms wrapped around me."





*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'*

**Matthew 13:31-32**

**2011 – 2012**

Catholic Charities becomes largest disaster case management agency in New York in aftermath of Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy.

**2011 – 2012** Project Veterans Independence is launched, bringing housing and rehabilitative services to veterans.

**2011** Cabrini Gardens opens, our 16th housing development for low-income seniors.

**2010** First bi-county Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program opens on Long Island, providing nutrition assistance for pregnant women and their children.

**2009** Mary's Residence, a transitional home for unwed, young moms and their children, opens in Merrick.

**2006** Mary's Manor Enriched Housing opens for frail seniors with low incomes, offering specialized care and social services.

**2003** More than 80,000 served.

**1999** Thea Bowman Residence for people with physical disabilities opens doors.

**1994** First Teaching Family Home in New York State opens; two HIV/AIDS homes open.

**1988** Food and Nutrition program (FAN) for pregnant women and children launches.

**1978 – 1979** Franklin Square and Massapequa Park Senior Centers open; legal services added to assist immigrants. Housing Department is established and opens St. Joseph's Village in Selden.

**1976 – 1977** Twenty parishes join our Parish Social Ministry network. Meals-On-Wheels and Talbot House Substance Abuse Crisis Center open; 250 employees serve 21 programs.

**1971** Family Services Division begins providing alcoholism recovery services.

**1968 – 1970** Spanish Social Services formed. Regina Residence, first shelter for single mothers on Long Island, opens.

**1964** Youth mentoring, court services and summer education programs for poor children added.

**1957** Catholic Charities established by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg; 11 people staff offices in Mineola and Bay Shore, serving 1,224 people.

**1990 – 1991**

HIV/AIDS Services and region's only HIV dental clinic established. Parish Social Ministry counts 74 parishes and 5,300 volunteers.

**1980** Nutrition programs serve 127,000 meals.

**1974 – 1975**

Christopher Residence for the developmentally disabled opens; 333 Vietnamese war refugees resettled.

**1972** Nearly 9,000 people served.

**1958 – 1959** Offices open in Lynbrook and Riverhead; Mental Health Clinic and programs for deaf and blind are added.

# Catholic Charities

## Diocese of Rockville Centre

### COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2017

#### OPERATING REVENUE:

Bequests, contributions and other gifts	\$ 2,238,258
Foundations, grants and other contracts	1,094,320
Catholic Ministries Appeal	1,250,000
Government contracts	11,873,703
Medicaid and Medicare	14,141,715
Fees, third-party and other reimbursements	4,429,908

Total Operating Revenue \$35,027,904

#### OPERATING EXPENSES:

##### Program Services:

Chemical Dependence Services	\$ 3,214,896
Disaster Response and Preparedness	525,937
Food and Nutrition Services	1,912,251
Health Systems	255,960
Housing	518,623
Immigrant Services	1,285,284
Maternity Services	689,312
Mental Health Outpatient Services	3,034,144
Parish Social Ministry	555,713
Residential Services	14,002,070
Senior Services	4,807,180
Special Needs Housing	201,789
Visually Impaired Persons Center	34,265
Other Programs	989,371

Total Program Services \$32,026,795

##### Supporting Services:

Administration	\$ 3,317,612
Fundraising	338,284

Total Supporting Services \$ 3,655,896

Total Operating Expenses \$35,682,691

#### DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS

(\$654,787)

#### NONOPERATING ACTIVITY:

Investment income and realized gains, net	\$ 1,081,598
Unrealized appreciation in fair market value of investments	1,375,930
Realized Special Needs Housing income	787,866
Gain on sale of property	313,851
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	113,095
Increase in permanently restricted net assets	213,936

#### INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

\$ 3,231,489

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR 30,471,003

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$33,702,492

A copy of the latest audited financial report is available upon request by e-mailing [info@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:info@catholiccharities.cc) or calling (516) 733-7000.

Catholic Charities gratefully acknowledges the legacies and support of those who assist in the continuation of our ministry. For information about planned giving or other forms of donations to Catholic Charities, please contact the Development and Communications Department at (516) 733-7042.

Catholic Charities is funded by the Catholic Ministries Appeal of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, federal agencies, the State of New York, Nassau and Suffolk counties, the United Way of Long Island, foundations, third-party reimbursements, client fees, contributions, grants and bequests. Catholic Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to Catholic Charities are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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# Care with Dignity... Life with Hope

## How We Help

### **Chemical Dependence Services:**

*Talbot House Chemical Dependence Stabilization Center/Outpatient Clinics*

### **Disaster Response:**

*Case Management/Disaster Action Response Team/  
Preparation & Relief Services*

### **Food and Nutrition Services:**

*Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors/Nutrition Outreach  
Education Project/Women, Infants and Children Program*

### **Housing:**

*Affordable Apartments for Seniors and People With Physical Disabilities/  
HIV/AIDS Housing*

### **Immigrant Services:**

*Legal Counseling/Citizenship & Voter Registration/Refugee Resettlement/  
Advocacy & Organizing*

### **Mental Health Outpatient Services:**

*Community-based Clinics/Suicide Prevention Training*

### **Mental Health Residential Services:**

*Siena Residence for Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities/Teaching Family  
Homes for Children/Project Independence and Project Veterans  
Independence*

### **Parish Social Ministry:**

*Parish Outreach/Support for Local Programs/Central Information and  
Referral (CIR)*

### **Regina Maternity Services:**

*Regina Residence/Mary's Residence/Mentoring Program/Maternity  
Community Program*

### **Residential Services for People with Developmental Disabilities:**

*Case Management/Community Integration/Skills Development/  
Community Residences*

### **Senior Services:**

*Case Management/Meals-On-Wheels/Senior Community Service Centers/  
Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Center*

**Catholic Charities  
Diocese of  
Rockville Centre**

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[www.catholiccharities.cc](http://www.catholiccharities.cc)

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