

Introducing our new Chief Executive Officer

Just in time as the Easter season gets underway, Bishop, John O. Barres has announced the appointment of Michael E. Smith as Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Long Island.

Michael comes to us with an impressive 26-year career in nonprofit leadership, most recently as Chief Financial Officer of Neighborhood Defender Service, Inc. where he managed all fiscal activity for the multi-region organization. He's also an attorney, admitted to the Bar in New York, Connecticut and the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York.

And while his accomplishments are many, they're not what set him apart. Tom Alexanderson, Chair of our Board of Trustees, headed up the committee which conducted the extensive, national search for months. He explains that they were guided by the late Pope Benedict who wrote,

"Those who work for the Church's charitable organizations must be distinguished by the fact that they do not merely meet the needs of the moment, but they dedicate themselves to others with heartfelt concern, enabling them to experience the richness of their humanity."

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Catholic Charities of Long Island shares the love of Jesus by offering dignified and compassionate care to poor and vulnerable neighbors of every faith and background. As a ministry of the Roman Catholic Church, our work is inspired by the Gospel message that every human life is sacred.



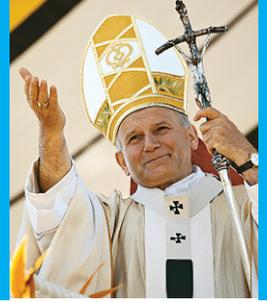
He added, "That's Mike. He displays a Gospel-driven compassion for people that's really at the heart of the Catholic Charities mission."

Michael is Long Island native, originally from Rockville Centre and a graduate of Chaminade High School in Mineola. He earned his BA in Political Science from Colgate University and his J.D. from the University of Bridgeport School of Law, now Quinnipiac University School of Law.

"I'm just thrilled to be coming home," said Michael, "and for the chance to help the communities that I love."



“Do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.” — Pope Saint John Paul II



To receive a free copy of our 2021 Annual Report, call (516) 733-7028.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND 2021 Annual Report

“CARE WITH DIGNITY...LIFE WITH HOPE”

In 2021, you helped provide hope in more than 1.2 million caring, face-to-face services to 36,331 neighbors.

Addiction Treatment Services*	1,648	served
Food and Nutrition	15,209	served
Housing*	2,815	served
Immigrant Services/Refugee Resettlement	6,290	served
Mental Health Outpatient Services	2,533	served
Mental Health Residential Services*	246	served
Parish Social Ministry***	3,780	served
Regina Maternity Services*	85	served
Residential Services for People With Developmental Disabilities*	104	served
Senior Services	3,621	served

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

**Our Immigration Services hosted information sessions that were attended by 4,381 people.

***Our Parish Social Ministry team also supported parish programs that serve people in their local communities with trainings and conferences that were attended by 2,900 people.



Our three Seniors Centers were hit by the love bug this St. Valentine’s Day!



Longtime friend and personal Santa, **Bob Spina**, and his “elves” hosted another holly, jolly, Christmas Parade for our homes for the developmentally disabled. Our thrilled residents were showered with lots of love and gifts!

Around and About SNAPSHOTS



Our Parish Social Ministry team and parish outreach coordinators from around our diocese visited **The Safe Center LI** to learn about their extensive services for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, child abuse and neglect.



Keeping us young at heart! In October, **Bishop John O. Barres** celebrated the 65th Anniversary Mass of **Catholic Charities of Long Island** at the Cathedral of St. Agnes.

“Louis the Rabbit” strikes again!
He crashed one of our Senior Center Halloween parties. Where will he strike next? Stay tuned.



On the Front Lines

Parish Social Ministry: Serving Long Island for 45 Years

This year we celebrate four and half decades of social ministry in the parishes of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. From food pantries to public policy initiatives, from thrift shops to mortgage assistance, the work of Parish Social Ministry (PSM) has an immeasurable impact on the day-to-day lives of Long Islanders.

It all started in 1971, when The National Conference of Catholic Charities concluded that the nation's Catholic Charities should help local parishes assume a greater role in caring for the poor. Inspired by this direction, the Diocese of Rockville Centre created a model that emphasized the responsibilities of individual Christians in meeting the demands of those in need. While there would be a role for Charities professionals, the effort stressed the development of a more personalized response at the parish level. The movement focused on empowering the whole Christian community in the work of service and justice.

Today, this unique partnership between Catholic Charities of Long Island and individual parishes is key to our diocese's ability to care for the poor. The PSM staff at Charities offers a blend of resources, spiritual support and skills trainings to parishes as they meet the changing needs of Long Island's diverse neighborhoods. Of the 133 parishes in the diocese, 110 now have PSM offices. And with the incredible help of more than 4,000 volunteers, they offer face-to-face compassion and direct assistance to neighbors everywhere. One of the first in the country, our program went on to be nationally recognized by Catholic dioceses and the interfaith community.

At its core, Parish Social Ministry is a tangible expression of care on behalf of the parish community and in the name of Jesus. It makes each parish an outpost of Christ's mercy and there's no other help network on Long Island quite like it.

In 2022, an estimated 264,000 people were served by PSM/Outreach programs on Long Island.

The most frequent request is for rent assistance.



A Minute with Mike

My dear, new friends,

First, thank you for welcoming me to this astonishing ministry that you've built here on Long Island.

As you read on the cover of this newsletter, I was born and raised here so I'm excited to come back and serve the people and neighborhoods that I love so much.

And I do love them. Yes, I confess! I know we all grumble about "the Island" and the cost of living, the taxes, the LIE, and the railroad delays... (Wait! I'd better stop!) But truth is we're also pretty lucky. Long Island is just minutes from the greatest city in the world, with an economy larger than some states, but we hold on to small-town ways that make it a great place to live and raise a family. Yet, that unique position does bring with it some unique problems.

If the Island can overwhelm you or me, just imagine how difficult it must be for the poor, the working poor or those who have been forgotten. That's why I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and link arms with you, the people who care about making it better—for all of us.

I'll take it as a good sign that I begin this work during the season of Lent with Easter just a few weeks away. These are days of hope and of new beginnings, fueled by our Lord's resurrection. I promise to keep that hope front and center in all that I do. I will honor this agency's past while we work to create new beginnings for the needy, and new ways to serve our Lord, together. There is NO problem we can't handle with God on our side. I sincerely believe that, and I hope you do, too.

I know I'm the new kid in town, but I'm not shy about asking for your help. Please pray for me, the Charities staff and for all those we serve this Easter season. **And if at all possible, will you please continue your generosity by making an Easter gift in the enclosed envelope?**

With your help, we're going to hit the ground running. And I can't wait.

I am faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Smith".

Michael E. Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities of Long Island



Affordable Senior Apartments Are Now Available!

Beautiful 1-bedrooms and studios

Mary's Manor Enriched Housing in the Five Towns area is for low-income seniors aged 65 and older who need just some assistance with daily activities. Services include: Nutritious meals • Personal care aides • Showers/tubs with fold-down seats and grab bars • Recreational activities • A safe environment with 24-hour supervision

Call today for you or someone you love. **(516) 733-7076**



Responding

Our heartfelt thanks to these friends.



Special thanks to our 20th Annual Golf Classic honoree **Joe Tedesco, President/CEO, Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union**. The sold-out event hosted 136 golfers and 180 dinner guests at the **Huntington Crescent Club** and was the most successful Golf Classic in our history, raising an incredible \$253,105.

Heartfelt gratitude to the **Anonymous Family** that donated \$100,000 for Addiction Services, Regina Maternity Services Community Case Management, and Project Veterans Independence.

Stasi Brothers Asphalt Contractors for boosting our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution for Project Independence, Project Veterans' Independence, and Special Needs Housing clients!

The **Faith Home Foundation** for \$25,000 for our Senior Center Programs.

Our long-time partners in the battle against hunger, **The Walmart Foundation** for a \$23,000 donation to the SNAP (food stamp) program to help with application assistance.



The Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association for donating 400 new, winter coats to Catholic Charities programs across Long Island.

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Simms for \$10,000 which will aid all our ministries.

The Ladies Christmas Fund at the Huntington Crescent Club for their generous \$2,775 gift.



A senior luau! Maybe an OPWDD picnic in the park! You can watch the first two episodes of, "Faith in Action" — our new, four-minute, feel-good news reels produced by the **Catholic Faith Network**. Just scan the Q-code with your phone or visit www.catholiccharities.cc/about-us/media



Leave a Legacy



Call (516) 733-7042 and find out how easy it is to add Catholic Charities to your will or estate and leave a legacy of your own.

Turn Your Car Into Care

Catholic Charities of LI will accept ANY car, truck, motorcycle or boat as a donation and provide you with a fast and easy pick-up and a tax receipt.

Call (877) 507-GIVE (4483) or visit <https://www.careasy.org/nonprofit/catholiccharities> to get started.



The Mission
Development and
Communications Department,
Catholic Charities of Long Island
(516) 733-7028
www.catholiccharities.cc

Chief Executive Officer:
Michael E. Smith
Editor:
Jennifer Regan Haight
Writer This Issue:
Umberto Mignardi

Design & Layout:
Jeff Thureau



www.facebook.com/CCharitiesLI/