



May 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church in mission, we work together to respond to those in need and offer guidance through quality services designed to respect the dignity of each person. Inspired by the Gospel, the many programs and services that are offered by Catholic Charities throughout our diocese focus on building a just and compassionate society that embraces the gifts given to us by Christ.

Especially today, when the North Country is facing the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response of our diocese and by Catholic Charities to the poor and underprivileged has become critically important. With unemployment and daily poverty reaching more deeply into our North Country communities, our charitable response needs to be greater than ever.

As always, Catholic Charities depends on our financial support to continue reaching out to our neighbor in need. As your Bishop and chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities, I ask you to consider making a generous donation to this vital ministry.

The *Mother's Day Annual Appeal* for Catholic Charities has traditionally taken place in our parishes on Mother's Day weekend. However, COVID-19 makes it unlikely that a pew collection can take place on Mother's Day this year. Instead, this collection will be held on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> when we are hopeful that all our Catholic churches across the diocese will be re-opened for Sunday celebrations and public worship.

Let us continue to **Give Help** and **Create Hope** for the many families of the North Country that we serve. Thank you for continuing the work of Christ on earth.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg