



May 2021

Dear Friends in Christ:

As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church in action, 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 almost 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 your financial support to continue reaching out to those who need our help. As your Bishop and chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities, I ask you to please consider making a generous gift to this wonderful organization that extends Jesus' love and concern, particularly for those in need.

The *Mother's Day Annual Appeal* for Catholic Charities will take place in all of our parishes on the weekend of May 9, 2021. Let us continue to **Give Help** and **Create Hope** for the many families of the North Country that we serve as we continue the work of Christ on earth.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry R. LaValley". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning.

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg