Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

2007 marks the Golden Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The 50th Anniversary theme “Faith lived, Faith prayed, Faith professed, Faith celebrated” represents the past, present and the future of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. It expresses a combination of our spirituality based upon Catholic teaching, and our good works.

Nowhere can the good works of our church family be better illustrated then in hearing about all the wonderful programs and services made available because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Because of your support, we were able to serve more than 500,000 of our Long Island neighbors last year by providing them with food, shelter, spiritual guidance, health services, religious educations, and hundreds of other good works that have enriched our community.

It is my pleasure to share this inaugural newsletter with you, with the hope it affords a small glimpse of some of the wonderful programs you help to make possible, and to hear from some of the individuals that your support has touched, as you continue to help us to serve as the “Hands of Christ” supporting the community around us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Bishop of Rockville Centre

2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal Kick-Off Brings Over 100 Parishioners Together


The reception, the first of many planned for Long Island, was attended by over 100 parishioners from several different parishes, and emphasized the many wonderful programs and services made possible by your support of the Appeal. This newsletter will showcase some of those programs.

An exciting new component of the 2007 Appeal is the introduction of a video presentation detailing all the different programs and services that the Appeal supports. Susan Lucci, actress and member of our church family, donated her time and talent to narrate the 10-minute video, which is being mailed to each of our Parishes to be shown at Mass or at local parish receptions. The video will also be available to view on our Web Site at www.drvc.org/cma.html

Bishop William T. Murphy addresses parishioners at St. James Parish, Setauket
One of the most significant demographic trends on Long Island is the growing number of senior citizens, a trend which is expected to be even more dramatic as baby boomers begin to reach their sixties.

Funds from the Catholic Ministries Appeal are used to meet these changing needs through the Catholic Charities Office of Senior Citizen Services. In addition to its 30 years of success with its Meals-on-Wheels program and Senior Community Service Centers, the office works closely with Nassau and Suffolk Counties to provide seniors a variety of activities and case management services at locations across Long Island.

Behind the effort to meet these changing needs is a young woman who seemed destined for the position.

Growing up in St. Raymond’s parish in East Rockaway, Eileen Verity and her siblings often heard their father, Jim, share his experiences as the Pastoral Care Worker for Catholic Charities Senior Housing. He spoke lovingly of the people he served and encouraged Eileen to seek internships that brought her into contact with this population.

Motivated by her father and her experiences as a summer intern with Catholic Charities, Eileen set out to become a social worker. After completing her Master’s degree in Social Work at Columbia University, she moved to Boston in order to begin her work with seniors.

From her first day of service, she recognized that there was a growing need among seniors that even well intentioned social workers could not address: legal matters.

Thus motivated, she enrolled in New England Law School to pursue a career in elder law.

As often happens, however, things changed quickly. The untimely death of Jim Verity brought Eileen home to be with her mother. Undiscouraged, she commuted to Boston twice a week to finish her studies and graduated in the spring of 2005.
Very soon after that interview, she was hired to coordinate enrollment for the Child Health Plus program. Impressed by her work, management approached her in September 2006 and invited her to apply for the position of Administrator of Senior Services. She did just that and gladly accepted the job because her “heart had always been devoted to serving seniors.”

Since then, Eileen has passionately administered a program that served over 210,000 meals in 2006 and hosted an average of 500 people per day at senior community service centers. But she has no plans to rest on her laurels. She knows that the solid partnerships she inherited with Nassau and Suffolk counties must be further cultivated to create additional services for this changing population. While their wellness remains the immediate priority, Eileen still sees legal assistance as the next greatest need.

“There should be a more organized effort to help seniors with the legal implications of growing old,” she notes. “Legal services are basically unaffordable to many of the seniors who come to our centers and seek our services,” she continues. “So we hope to develop a low cost way for them to put their affairs in order, ensure that they receive good care, and obtain peace of mind.” To this end, Catholic Charities is in the process of applying for grants that would help launch such a program. It is her goal to involve students in existing elder law clinics at local law schools. “This would directly help seniors while introducing law students to the incredible good that can be done while working for nonprofits.”

When asked where she sees herself in ten years, Eileen replies, “Right here, working with senior citizens. They’ve dedicated their entire lives to making our communities on Long Island wonderful places to live. I believe it’s our responsibility to help them continue enjoying it.” Like most of the highly credentialed, caring individuals who provide services through the Diocese, she enjoys her work and is passionate about those she serves. “I guess it’s a family affair,” she reflects. “I’m proud to follow in my dad’s footsteps, but I know he’d expect me to clear some new paths as well.”

2006 Catholic Ministries Appeal Report

Catholic Charities:
2006 estimated allocation: $2,294,600

Pastoral Outreach:
2006 estimated allocation: $2,086,000

Education:
2006 estimated allocation: $2,086,000

Parishes:
2006 estimated allocation: $2,086,000

Formation:
2006 estimated allocation: $1,877,400

Your support allowed us to raise more than 10.4 million for the 2006 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

The funds that you and your fellow parishioners contribute to the CMA provide a portion of the total amount needed to support the programs and services outlined above.
The Catholic Ministries Appeal is conducted annually by the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The funds you and your fellow parishioners contribute to the CMA provide a portion of the total funding needed for the programs and services we provide to the Long Island Community. Your participation helps further the mission of Jesus Christ here on Long Island. Literally and figuratively, you are the "Hands of Christ" supporting the community around us.

For More Information
Call 516-379-5210 - ext 2 - or visit us at our Web Site at
www.drvc.org/cma.html

Catholic Ministries Appeal
Diocese of Rockville Centre
PO Box 4000
Rockville Centre, NY 11571-4000