



A message from Bishop John Barres

Dear Friends:

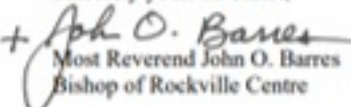
Thank you for your sustained support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) and our parish communities here on Long Island.

Every year when we support the CMA, we create pathways to faith for our diocesan family. The Appeal invigorates our journey of dramatic missionary growth in our Diocese and unites us as One Family in Mission as we fulfill our baptismal call to evangelize and show mercy to our brothers and sisters in need.

As Pope Francis has said, *“Go and show love to everyone, because your life is a precious mission.”* As you prayerfully consider a gift to this year’s CMA, please take a moment to reflect on the many ways our families and neighbors find their path to Christ because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

With my prayers and best wishes to you and your families,



Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Opening Pathways for Others to Follow their Call to Serve



Father Sean Magaldi began his journey to the priesthood after he graduated from college and became a campus minister at Adelphi.

It was there that he knew he was called to ministry. That calling continued in his junior year at Chaminade where he was inspired by the dedicated Brothers there.

Today Fr. Magaldi serves as the Vocations Director at the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

"Looking at the different journeys that I have embarked on, the Catholic Ministries Appeal has been involved in all of them. The CMA funds Campus Ministry and my path was a result of that program. After entering the seminary, being ordained and today working as the Vocations Director, is all due to the generosity of the people who support the Catholic Ministries Appeal."



Pope Francis to take part in virtual UN event celebrating human fraternity on February 4th. (Courtesy of The Long Island Catholic)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican announced that Pope Francis will participate in a meeting hosted by the United Nations to mark the first International Day of Human Fraternity. According to a statement published Feb. 1 by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the pope will take part in the Feb. 4 virtual event, which will be hosted in Abu Dhabi by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince. Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar University, and António Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, are also expected to attend, the pontifical council said.

"This celebration responds to a clear call that Pope Francis has been making to all humanity to build a present of peace in the encounter with the other," said Cardinal Miguel Angel Ayuso, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. "In October 2020, that invitation became even more vivid with the Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti.' These meetings are a way to achieve true social friendship, as the Holy Father asks of us," he said.

The date chosen for the event marks the day in 2019 that Pope Francis and Sheikh el-Tayeb signed a document on promoting dialogue and "human fraternity" during his apostolic visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The Higher Committee of Human Fraternity was established after the

pope's visit in order to implement concrete proposals toward fraternity, solidarity and mutual understanding proposed in the document.

In an interview with Vatican News published Feb. 1, Judge Mohamed Mahmoud Abdel Salam, secretary-general of the committee, said the celebration of the International Day of Human Fraternity "means that humanity has come to realize the importance of human fraternity in shaping its relations" and those of "its future generations."

The international day, he added, also comes at a time when humanity continues to face difficult challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as escalating conflicts and violence "which are dangers that can only be confronted with solidarity and brotherhood among all members of the human family."

"The importance of this resolution is that it makes the realization of human fraternity a global solidarity responsibility, as the whole world shares in the realization of these sublime principles, and every year it renews ideas and visions for its realization, so that it becomes inspiring for tolerance and coexistence," he said. More information is available at the website of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue: <https://www.pcinterreligious.org/>



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