

**20  
19** CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Supporting *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in Our Community

# IMPACT REPORT



*"Growth in Holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others."*

THANK YOU FOR WALKING  
SIDE BY SIDE WITH US AS WE  
WORK TO SERVE OUR  
WONDERFUL LONG ISLAND  
COMMUNITY!

*"The Holy Spirit is calling forth a new generation of saints, mystics and missionaries on Long Island and you have lead the way by helping to pave the path with your gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal."*

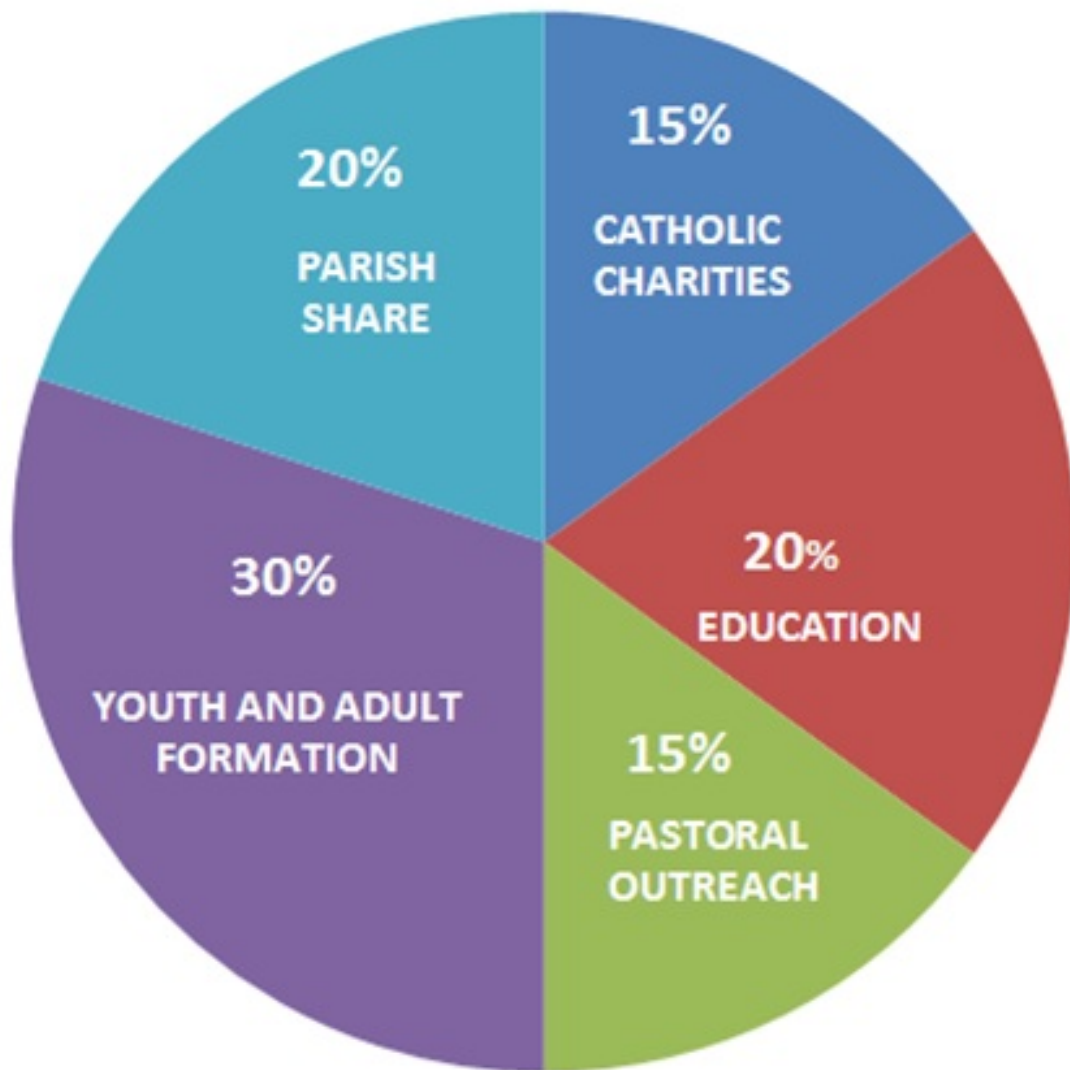
- Bishop John Barres

## YOUR 2018 DOLLARS AT WORK IN 2019

100% of every dollar raised is restricted to the Appeal!

TOTAL RAISED

\$10,419,204



## **YOUR SUPPORT HAS GIVEN THESE STORIES A HAPPY ENDING!!!**

### **Evangelizing Our Young People**

In 2019 we held another successful Camp Quo Vadis. In the beginning of July, more than 100 young people came to our Seminary of the Immaculate Conception for a week-long Catholic Camp.

In addition to the campers, our seminarians, priests and the Sisters of Life were present. It was amazing to see these young people attending Mass, adoring our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, going to confession and enjoying each others company.



### **SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED**

The Adduxit Leadership Seminar, a joint effort of Youth Ministry and College Campus Ministry, took place on May 24, 2019. Twenty four men and women, some college students and some slightly older young adults, spent three days at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in

Huntington for an intensive seminar retreat experience on Christian leadership and evangelization.

The seminar was centered around the four traditional pillars of formation - spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral. The days included presentations from a variety of speakers, religious and lay, as well as highlighting the sacraments and contemplative prayer.

The experience was a break from more typical youth retreats and really keyed in on each retreatant's baptismal call to build a firm, personal foundation in Christ which will enable them to better share the Gospel with others. The group was comprised of participants from across Long Island all with great potential for work in ministry and evangelization in our Diocese in the near and long-term future.



### JOY OF THE GOSPEL

In early November 2019 a young man (in his early 40s) came to a renewal day entitled "The Journey Continues," for graduates of our School of Missionary Disciples. In the course of the day he shared with the group that several years ago he had been asked by a nephew to be his Confirmation sponsor.

To be a sponsor at Confirmation one must be a confirmed Roman Catholic in good standing. The man recognized that he did not qualify. He immediately went through the RCIA process for those already baptized but not confirmed. After having received Confirmation, he had a firm commitment to continue to participate in the life of the church, so he then entered the School of Missionary Disciples.

The two year program with its weekly sessions, study days and retreats was just what he needed to get his life back on course. Having been addicted to drugs and alcohol he was now able to lead a healthy life filled with the "Joy of the Gospel" as Pope Francis would say.

This is just one of the little miracles that happen when one turns to Christ and the Church and makes a decision to live the Gospel of Life.

## CALLED TO HOLINESS



On June 22, 2019, Bishop Barres ordained six men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.





Bishop John Barres ordained five men to the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Saturday, June 1st.

## CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE



Dembe was keeping a very dangerous secret. For months she had been visiting a Catholic shrine near her home in Uganda. Pregnant, she nurtured her new-found faith there and decided she would have her baby baptized.

But Dembe came from a devout Muslim family and she knew her change of religion could be disastrous. She eventually told her husband who supported her decision.

However, it wasn't long before their families found out and tempers flared. Hers immediately cut all ties while his family quickly turned everyone in their small community against them.

Soon they were not only ostracized but regularly victimized. Neighbors would curse and throw stones as they walked in the street. Once, while she was home alone, a group of men threw her into a pile of animal dung and mud.

"They told me they'd kill us if I baptized my baby. I was frightened. I knew I had to do something." So Dembe sought religious asylum in the United States.

When she arrived without her husband, she was still eight months pregnant and the only shelter she could find was in a friend's unfinished basement. A hospital social worker heard her plight and called Catholic Charities' Regina Residence, our home for pregnant women in crisis. There, Dembe was welcomed with open arms and found unconditional love for her and her newborn baby, Maria.

Today, Dembe and her baby are healthy, happy, and enjoying the religious freedom and tolerance of the United States. But she recalls, "At that shrine they told me that God would find a way to wrap His arms around us. It was true. His arms are the embrace of Catholic Charities."

Story reprinted from Catholic Charities' March Newsletter - The Mission.

## BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD!!!



This past February, the Office of Hispanic Men's Congress held its second Hispanic Men's Congress. Its theme was

**"Men of God Sanctifying the Family"** and was inspired by the scripture quote from Joshua 24:15 "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

The Congress was attended by more than 320 men from across Long Island and it was an opportunity for men who were disconnected from the Catholic Church to come together and re-encounter and/or renew their faith, hereby responding to the Holy Father's call to go out to the peripheries. This was accomplished by leaders reaching out to men in their communities, inviting them to come together to celebrate faith and God's love, then bringing the enriched faith back to families and parish communities.

## Welcoming Our Neighbors!

During the Summer of 2019, the Office of Multi-cultural Diversity began working with Nigerian Catholics in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to form the beginnings of an Nigerian Igbo Apostolate.

Working with Fr. Lawrence Onyegu, who is presently the Parish Administrator at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Valley Stream, a Mass for Nigerian Catholics in the Igbo language now takes place there every Sunday at 2 PM.



The new Nigerian Igbo Apostolate has already had two visiting Nigerian Bishops who celebrated the Mass as well as a well-attended revival with more than 400 participants.

The revivalist, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Obimma, as the director of the Holy Ghost Adoration Ministry, Uke, Anambra state, draws crowds wherever he goes. He travels with a relic of the Blessed Michael Iwene Tansi.

Street Ministry at St. John the Evangelist in Center Moriches brings food, clothing and the love of God to those who are homeless or in need of help with life's basic necessities.

Janice was homeless and struggling when she first met the folks who run the Street Ministry program. Today, she has an apartment and is one of their best ambassadors, greeting everyone with a smile!

*By experiencing the seemingly limitless generosity of our family of faith, we have come to understand more deeply that our Heavenly Father delights to meet our needs through the hands of His children. To God our Father and you who are His hands and feet we humbly say, "thank you."*

