

Tomorrow's Hope Remarks of Bishop Barres
The Stars for Students Gala
RXR Plaza
May 22, 2024

LONG FORM (more complete presentation of Catholic Education Partnerships with *Catholic Health, Catholic Charities* and the *Catholic Faith Network*):

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Thank you for supporting the work of the **Tomorrow's Hope Foundation**, making the life-changing Catholic School experience accessible to so many children on Long Island.

We share a collective gratitude for the visionary and founding efforts of Lew Ranieri and his family, and Bishop William Murphy, as well as for the hard work and dedication of the Tomorrow's Hope Board, Staff, Corporate Members and volunteers.

Once again, we are so pleased to honor the Tyranski and Cassino families tonight along with their children and their families for their steadfast support of Catholic Education on Long Island.

On April 5th, we experienced a solar eclipse where the moon was positioned between the sun and the earth creating an eclipse of earthly darkness.

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But we know that the Risen Christ is always victorious and that his Light and his Truth bring us victory.

The Light and Truth of the Risen Christ' Victory streams through our Catholic schools on Long Island to the world.

I was impressed recently with the branding efforts of the Long Beach Catholic Regional School where banners around the school proclaim: "Long Beach Catholic Regional School: Where Truth *Still* Matters."

Yes, Truth *still* matters!

Society needs well-formed, articulate, and joyful Catholics who bear witness to the liberating truths of our Catholic moral teachings on marriage and the family, the sanctity of human life, the dignity of the human person created male and female in the image and likeness of God, and the dignity of the poor, the sick and the refugee that we are called to serve as Catholic Good Samaritans.

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This Catholic faith formation propels them into the world and the public square as people of Catholic thought and action who are, in the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John, "consecrated in truth."

I am deeply grateful for the vibrant Catholic formation partnerships that exist between our Catholic Schools on Long Island, Catholic Health, Catholic Charities, the Catholic Faith Network and Tomorrow's Hope.

These partnerships demonstrate that our Catholic school students are being formed in understanding and living the Catholic missionary spirit of Catholic Health, Catholic Charities and the Catholic Faith Network on Long Island.

These partnerships show how our Catholic faith and the truths of our Catholic faith are put into action on Long Island.

In regard to the mission of Catholic Health, our Catholic school students will be the future doctors, nurses, staff and board members of Catholic Health. They will know that they can be confident as future patients of Catholic Health's compassionate care and fidelity to Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church He founded.

In regard to the mission of Catholic Charities, our Catholic school students are being formed in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy mission of Catholic Charities and will be participants and advocates for the critical work of Catholic Charities on Long Island in the future.

In regard to the mission of the Catholic Faith Network, our Catholic school students will understand how cutting edge communication strategies evangelize Long Island, the Nation and the World through the creative missionary communications work of the Catholic Faith Network.

Each of these Catholic evangelization adventures have their origin in the same mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in his compassionate and merciful love for us.

So development of these formational partnerships provides a Spirit-driven synergy of mutual support and outcomes.

Specifically, the Department of Catholic Education and Catholic Health partnership has created *yearlong programmatic opportunities* for all Diocesan schools preK-12. *Highlighting...*

- **In the fall: Patriotism - Veteran's Day**

Catholic Health launched a program to teach children about the meaning and importance of Veterans Day. The students wrote heartfelt messages and colored cards for our many Catholic Health patients who served our country in uniform, thanking them for their service. More than 2,000 cards were created and distributed across our Catholic Health patient facilities.

- **In the winter: Respect for Life: The Catholic Health Academic Booklet Challenge with proceeds supporting the Gianna Center**

Catholic Health proudly assisted Catholic elementary students here on Long Island with the Catholic Health Academic Challenge where they were sponsored by family and friends to complete a number of educational activities, with the monies raised all going to women being treated by the Gianna Center -one of Catholic Health distinguished programs assisting women in health and reproductive wellness- through the proper lens of Catholic moral and bioethical teaching.

- **In the/this spring: Service to those in need**

This spring, Catholic Health has partnered with Long Island's Catholic schools on a food drive focused on assisting students in need to maintain proper nutrition during the summer months when school is closed.

*And, in terms of **Catholic high school** support*

- At Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, Catholic Health launched the Catholic Health Center for Medicine and Research which was blessed by Bishop Robert J. Coyle, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.
 - Catholic Health provided Holy Trinity high school students state-of-the-art STEM equipment, including a 3D virtual Anatomy Table to perform virtual surgeries and virtual autopsies with direct interaction with Catholic Health's surgical specialists.
 - In fact, two Holy Trinity students received the Catholic Health Scholarship.
- Catholic Health also conducts CPR training and Stop the Bleeding demos and lectures at Catholic High Schools bringing in teams of physicians, nurses and residents to give hands-on demos for the students thinking about a career in medicine.
- Catholic Health has given some powerful mental health education seminars in our schools that review the fundamentals of nutrition, sleep, emotional health and the dignity of human life – all integrated through our Eucharistic devotion and Catholic spirituality. In fact, Catholic Health recently provided these services during St. John the Baptist High School's Mental Health Day

*And, also in terms of **high level** events and sponsorship*

- Catholic Health hosted a special student event at **The Cradle of Aviation Museum** to stimulate student interest in **STEM** careers, being Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through the proper lens of Catholic and bioethical teaching.
- Catholic Health has partnered with the **Tomorrow's Hope Foundation**, which provides scholarships to seven children each year to attend one of our fine Catholic schools. Catholic Health has committed to \$125,000 in financial

support to Tomorrow's Hope's scholarship program, because Catholic Health believes so strongly in the high value of a Catholic school education.

Please join me in thanking CH President and CEO Dr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy, CH Board Chair Sal Sodano, CH VP of Mission Fr. Kevin Creagh, our Vicar General Fr. Eric Fasano, Fr. Matt Browne and Pam Sanders for the tremendous support that Catholic Health provides Catholic Education on Long Island!

Our Catholic schools also have a powerful partnership with Catholic Charities on Long Island.

A stirring example of this partnership came during **Catholic Schools Week** when Danielle Campbell, director of communications and development at Catholic Charities, and President and CEO Michael Smith visited with 3,000 students at **six Catholic elementary schools** in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Our students learned about the wide range of spiritual and corporal works of mercy grounded in living Jesus and the Gospel that Catholic Charities delivers each day at its Long Island ministries.

After watching video presentations about CCLI programs and services, the students constructed handmade St. Valentine's Day cards for seniors assisted by Catholic Charities. The entire experience was a powerful lesson about how Catholic faith is put into action!

Judging from their excellent questions, the students paid close attention and were deeply moved. One first-grader shared that she felt a light go on inside her. *May that Divine spark illuminate the Catholic school days of her and her classmates.*

Students brought home gift bags with information from **CCLI, Catholic Health and Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union**. A letter about the Catholic Charities' effort was also sent to school parents.

St. Agnes Cathedral School in Rockville Centre conducted an amazing Baby Bottle fund-raiser benefiting new moms and babies assisted by CCLI's Regina Maternity Services program during Respect Life Month in October.

More than 600 students collected spare change. The results added up to an astounding \$6,100. The **St. Aidan School community in Williston Park** also collected \$1,000 for Catholic Charities' Meals on Wheels program.

During Lent, Ms. Campbell brought the fascinating experiences of Catholic Charities of Long Island to interested students and faculty at three more Catholic elementary schools--**St. John Paul II Regional School in Riverhead, Sts. Philip and James School in St. James and St. John the Evangelist School in Center Moriches.**

The schools held dress-down days for students, with proceeds directed to the **Parish Social Ministry** emergency relief fund for those who seek immediate help at our parishes.

Many Catholic high school students provide volunteer service at Catholic Charities of Long Island events, activities and ministry sites. Their efforts are often highlighted in weekly Catholic Charities segments by Ms. Campbell on **CFN LIVE.**

In April, girls in the Sign Language Club at **Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead** visited hearing impaired residents at CCLI's St. John Neumann Residence in Manhasset. Students and residents communicated using American Sign Language, and with the universal language of love and friendship.

Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale recently hosted residents of three group homes for people with developmental disabilities for Operation FUN, which offers arts and crafts, a spiritual exercise, games, and singing and dancing.

Many high school students volunteer at large dances and holiday-themed celebrations for Catholic Charities programs. **Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville** hosted a Spring Fling dance for seniors who enjoy activities at the three Catholic Charities senior community centers in Nassau County.

Students of **St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip** helped out at a prom for residents of Catholic Charities' 12 group homes for people with developmental disabilities. Some said they enjoyed this prom even more than their own school proms.

I'd like to thank our Catholic Charities President and CEO Michael Smith, our Charities Board Chair Tom Alexanderson, our Vice Chair Msgr. Jim Vlaun and all who work for the mission of Catholic Charities on Long Island.

Tonight, we express our gratitude for your advocacy and financial support of the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation.

As we anticipate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ on Sunday, June 2, 2024, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ's Eucharistic presence and a strengthening of our Catholic Schools.

Once again, thank you for your faithful support of Catholic education on Long Island. May God bless you and your families, our domestic churches, which, in the words of Pope Francis, "transform the world and history."

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

We give thanks for the great Solemnities of Pentecost, the Most Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We ask your blessings upon us and all involved in the evangelizing adventure of Catholic education on Long Island.

May the tongues of flame and the driving wind of the Holy Spirit consecrate our Catholic schools, our students, our parents and families, our faculties and our leadership grounded in the liberating truths and charity of our Catholic faith.

May we all be ambassadors of the truth who transparently assent and courageously and compassionately witness in the public square to the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and the family, human anthropology and the dignity of the human person, the Gospel of Life and Catholic Social Justice teaching. May we all be guided by your Holy Spirit.

May we all open up to the holiness and mission of your Trinitarian indwelling so that we can live Jesus and respond deeply and courageously to our baptismal call to holiness and mission.

May we be faithful to the Eucharist and the Sunday Catholic Mass. May our hearts beat in rhythm with the humility, mercy, forgiveness and joy of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

May the inspired Word of God be a light and lamp for our steps (Ps. 119) and may the Holy Eucharist be the true way of all our loves upon earth. (Tolkien)

Give us all a burning desire for Heaven and Eternal Life so that we can know how best to invest our lives on earth.

May all mighty God bless you +

SHORT FORM (Remarks at the Gala):

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