



Dear Friends:

A Blessed and Happy Easter! We entered this season of Easter seeing the many difficulties facing our world and community. Through it all, the People of God on Long Island continue to be inspired by the Word of God and devoted to being instruments of Eucharistic Revival.

Pope Francis reminds us that *"The Eucharist impels us to a strong and committed love of neighbor, for we cannot truly understand or live the meaning of the Eucharist if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor, suffering, weary or may have gone astray in life."*

So crucial to our work as instruments of Eucharistic Revival are the funds raised by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Those funds help us to strengthen our mission and be present in ministry to so many people throughout our beloved Diocese. We can provide programs and services to our parishes, offer hope to those in need, nurture the faith of our youth, college students, and young adults, and support formation for our deacons, lay leaders, and seminarians.

Ordained in 2023, Rev. Stephen McClernon shared why the Appeal was so important to his formation. *"The CMA has been influential in my life. One of the ministries it supports is the Holy Hours for Vocations at the Seminary. We gather young people from across the Island to hold Eucharistic Adoration. During my college years, this experience was a big part of my faith and my decision to become a priest. The Catholic Ministries Appeal has helped foster my vocation to the priesthood."*

Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please pray for the success of this year's Appeal and for those who are supported by it.

You and your loved ones are remembered in my prayers and Masses. May the Risen Lord guide and strengthen you in this Easter season.

Sincerely in Christ

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre