"Be Not Afraid." This theme of the 2017-2018 Respect Life Program encourages us to heed these words found so often in Scripture. A portion of the program flyer expands on this:

"Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new."

He will always be with us and promise this when he goes to the disciples the same mission he goes to each of us: Go. Go by the hands and feet of a world wounded by fear. Go to the woman who is unexpectedly pregnant and fears the future. Go to your friend who fears replant in work because he takes a stand for the protection of human life. Go to your aging parent in failing health who fears being a burden. And go to others, too, for their support.

With each other Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us.

“Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20.)

This year’s program includes topics that we have been addressing here in the Diocese of Rochester, like Catholic Charities for Our Family Housing, understanding and preparing for our earthly passing in a way that respects God’s gift of human life. Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide addresses a specific end of life issue that has been a recent focus of our Diocesan Public Policy Committee and the NYS Catholic Conference in light of proposed legislation.

The decision was initially made in 1983 to create a decentralized governance structure through the establishment of bylaw regional or specialty service divisions. There are now nine such divisions to which are delegated most of the powers to run the affairs of the single Catholic Charities corporation in their sphere, with certain over-arching powers reserved to the Diocesan Board and members of the corporation.

This decentralized approach, based on the principle of subsidiarity, allows local Board and staff leaders to make decisions and develop relationships that contribute to their local communities. The separate divisions work closely with local parishes, government, business and civic leaders to determine unmet needs in the community and respond to them collaboratively. Directors recognize that contributions will remain in local communities. Hence, Catholic Charities agencies have remained at the heart and center of service programs in local communities.

At the same time, over the last 15 years, the Diocesan Board and Diocesan staff leadership have given priority attention to developing shared back office services, including finance, human resources, information technology and most recently the compliance function. Through this centralization of services, the agency as a whole has been able to achieve cost efficiencies and also respond effectively to the changing funding and regulatory environment.

A good example of the value of this administrative approach has been the work to develop the Thriving Families Program in Wayne County. This program, funded by the federal government at a rate of $1.64 per person was taken on successfully by an agency which as the time had an annual budget of less than $1 million dollars. While some thought that such a program expansion could not be successfully undertaken by a small agency, it really the entire $80 million Catholic Charities entity that provided administrative support to develop the program successfully. Further administrative support was provided by affiliate Providence Housing Development Corporation to enable the agency to move into a new large facility.

As the world of human service delivery changes dramatically with particularly the State and related funder such as managed care organizations seeking to work with larger agencies, this Wayne County example serves as a model of how Diocesan Catholic Charities respond effectively to such challenges.

Examples of new opportunities for the Diocesan entity are participation with three other Diocesan Catholic Charities organizations (Albany, Syracuse and Buffalo) in developing the Medicaid funded Encompass Family Health Home and participation in the current application process to establish a Behavioral Health Care Collaborative.

In early 2016 Governor Cuomo made a historic commitment to combat homelessness through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) with a 2.4 billion dollars designated to provide operation and support services for 6,000 new supportive beds over a five year period. The goal is to give New Yorkers access to safe and secure housing.

Catholic Charities Community Services has been awarded a $500,000+ for five years ESHSI grant to provide supportive services to residents who will occupy 30 housing units in the Monroe County area. These funds are conditioned on identifying a housing project, one. The next step in this process is a collaborative effort with Providence Housing which is currently hard at work to identify a project location and secure capital funding. Providence will also provide long term property management services.

Once the housing is in place, residents, representing some of the most vulnerable populations in our community including persons who live with intellectual developmental disabilities, serious mental health illnesses, and HIV/AIDS, will have access to critically needed services. Through the grant, CCHS will assist in setting up the housing units with basic every day needs like furniture and household items. CCHS will also offer case management services on site, and help residents access transportation, education, employment and more.

One of the key elements of the grant is to achieve housing stabilization. CCS will use some of the funding to provide rental subsidies, helping residents retain their housing while they continue to work on the goals they have set for themselves to become self-sustaining.

This new facility will serve as the capstone in a continuum of integrated care for the “whole person” which Catholic Charities Community Services offers. In addition to connecting the agency’s Behavioral Health Programs, this facility integrates seamlessly with the Substance Use Residential Stabilization and Rehabilitation Programs. Catholic Family Center continues to be the only human services agency in Monroe County offering a “day rehabilitation” program, and one of the few that accepts support from the New York State Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), offers substance abuse integrated care including substance use treatment, integrated mental health services and medical services.

With this opening, Rochester Outpatient Departments which has been providing substance use disorder services for nearly 40 years, now has a site that will allow for the expansion of medical services and medication assisted treatment to address the ser-
For over 100 years, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester has beenat the forefront of providing assistance to those in need. The organization's mission is to "Help that Works, Hope that Lasts." Students at Catholic Charities have always been committed to their communities. "The people at Catholic Charities that I've worked with have been incredible," said a student volunteer. "They are dedicated and passionate about making a difference in the lives of those who need it most."

"What is most inspiring is the idea of making a difference in the world," said another student. "I've learned so much from being a part of this organization."

"Catholic Charities has been a huge part of my life," said a member of the organization. "I've been able to see firsthand the impact that we can make in the lives of others."
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This year’s program includes topics that we have been addressing here in the Diocese of Rochester: Bio-Catholic Considers for Our Comity Housing; understanding and preparing for our earthly passing in a way that respects God’s gift of human life. Top Answers to Optima-Approved Su- cide addresses a specific end of life issue that has been a recent focus of our Diocesan Public Policy Committee and of the NYS Catholic Conference in light of proposed bills to legalize assisted suicide.

Catholic Charities urges support of the Catholic Courier Christmas Appeal through which much needed funds are made available for emergency assistance at Catholic Charities agencies.

Send your contribution to: Christmas Appeal P.O. Box 24579 Rochester, NY 14624-4379

To see the U.S. bishops’ Respect Life initiative centered on the theme “Be Not Afraid” visit www.usccb.org/respectlife.

There are articles, prayers, action ideas, and more!

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Catholic Charities Respect Life Christmas Appeal

Assisting people in Short-term Financial Crisis

Catholic Charities urges support of the Catholic Courier Christmas Appeal through which much needed funds are made available for emergency assistance at Catholic Charities agencies.

Through its unique decentralized system of governance, together with the strong support of well-developed shared back office ser-

Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal

Catholic Charities Support of the Catholic Courier Christmas Appeal through which much needed funds are made available for emergency assistance at Catholic Charities agencies.

Shared Services Provide Efficiencies, Opportunity

North American Housing and Special Needs Conference.

* Catholic Courier

Shared Services Provide Efficiencies, Opportunity

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