

THE GOOD NEWS

SUMMER 2015

A QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOCUSES EFFORTS ON REDUCING POVERTY

A highlight of the last edition of Good News was presentation of a matrix of services provided by the Catholic Charities family of agencies. Through these services, every year Catholic Charities touches the lives of 250,000 persons in our twelve county Diocese.

Our tag line is “Help that works, Hope that lasts.” In each of our services, staff from Catholic Charities respects the dignity of those we encounter, and we “walk with them” wherever they are, as living signs of the hope inherent in God’s love for all of us.

In very different ways, these services help relieve the burden of poverty, whether it is economic, social, emotional or spiritual. And, in response to much recent discussion about poverty, Bishop Matano frequently emphasizes that we have been working to address poverty in this Diocese for more than one hundred years.

In light of the greater focus on reducing poverty over the last de-

cade, including the campaign of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Charities in this Diocese has focused on several specific efforts to help lift individuals and families out of poverty. An example from each agency can be found in this month’s issue.

In our Catholic Charities mission statement, we are called not only to provide direct service, but also to work with parish communities, serving as leaven to encourage their efforts to respond to local needs, and also to advocate for public policies based upon elements of Catholic Social Teaching emphasizing the sacredness of human life and encouraging a preferential option for the poor. Much of this work is done in conjunction with the Diocesan Public Policy Committee. Described also in this issue of Good News is the major education and advocacy campaign focused on children and families in poverty currently being implemented by the Diocesan Public Policy Committee.

Public Policy Committee Focus on Children and Families in Poverty

The Diocesan Public Policy Committee (DPPC) is a volunteer committee charged with providing advice on matters of public policy to the Bishop of Rochester. The Bishop receives annual recommendations from the DPPC that advance the Church’s public policy priorities at the international, federal and state levels of government, propose priorities for adoption through appropriate Church channels and develops local public policy priorities based upon Gospel values, Church teaching and personal understanding of a community’s needs.

Each year, the Public Policy Committee publishes a Diocese of Rochester Legislative Agenda focusing on one advocacy issue and two education issues, as a way of encouraging individual parishioners, parish social ministry committees and parishes to live out the Gospel call to love our neighbor. This year a major focus is children and families in poverty.

This education and advocacy effort was launched on May 28th with publication of an education packet which included a cover letter from Bishop Matano, information about the reality of poverty in our Diocese, a list of proven long-term approaches to poverty, and an outline of ideas and examples for parishes using the outline of the U.S. Bishop’s *Salt and Light* document.

In encouraging parish participation in this effort, Bishop Matano reminded us of three important statements which demonstrate that the work is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching:

“The Church’s love for the poor is a part of her constant tradition. The love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and the concern for the poor.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2443).

“When poverty strikes the family, the children prove to be the most vulnerable victims...” (Pope Emeritus Benedict

XVI Message for Celebration of World Day of Peace, 2009).

“It is unfathomable that there are so many children without education, so many poor persons...” (Pope Francis Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools, June 7, 2013).

The education packet begins with a description of the reality of poverty in our Diocese. Throughout the Diocese, child poverty rates range from 13.3% in Ontario County to 27.3% in Yates County. In the City of Rochester, 50.1% of children live in poverty – the highest in the nation for cities of comparable size. Recent studies show that children under the age of 6 were the poorest age group in New York State. Some of the significant life-long consequences of a childhood of poverty are then discussed in the document.

The education document then outlines proven long-term approaches to lifting children and families out of poverty relating specifically to the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person: Poverty is a pro-life issue
 - Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: Who speaks up for children?
 - Call to Family and Community Participation: Employment should not prevent a person from caring for a new or ill family member
 - Subsidiarity: Parents are in the best position to decide what their families need
 - Dignity of Work: A job with just wages and working conditions is the best path out of poverty
 - Solidarity: What harms my brother and sister anywhere harms us all
 - Care for Creation: The poor often suffer the greatest impact of pollution and climate change effects
- The next section of the document gives examples of



ways parishes can address this initiative within the framework of the 1993 U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral letter – *Communities of Salt and Light*. In this document the bishops asked us to think about how we can respond to social issues, such as Children and Families in Poverty, in every aspect of parish life, including worship, faith formation, and action. They outlined seven dimensions of parish life through which parishes can address social justice issues..

As part of this initiative, Catholic Charities is organizing two “poverty simulations” where participants learn firsthand of some of the challenges of living in poverty. Catholic Family Center is sponsoring an event to be held in Rochester on Tuesday, October 20th (to register, contact Ruth Barone, rbarone@cfcrochester.org). The Steuben County Bridges Out of Poverty Coalition is sponsoring an event to be held in Hammondsport on Monday, October 26th (to register, contact Lynda Lowin, llowin@dor.org).

REGIONAL ROUNDUP: GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Family Center

Catholic Family Center has been working for decades with the vulnerable and those facing poverty to help them achieve their full human potential. Many individuals have achieved independence and addressed the challenges in their lives, but for many, we do not know the full story because we only touch one aspect of their life or family. So when we see the poverty rate in Monroe County and most especially in the City of Rochester continue to climb, it is time to ask what else can and should be done.

CFC is trying a new approach by asking what the root causes of poverty are for the clients we serve and how can our services better address those causes. We need to "move the needle" on the poverty issue in Rochester. The result is three significant initiatives:

1. Pilot Project in the Plymouth-Exchange (PLEX) Neighborhood.

Since November CFC has been developing a two-generational model for lifting families out of poverty at Carlson Commons in the PLEX neighborhood. Leveraging a model that has been implemented in multiple communities across the US called mobility mentoring, the pilot has been building relationships with the community and is now beginning the mentoring phase. This pilot project will address the root causes of poverty for the families engaged by working with parents and caregivers to establish and achieve goals directed to self-sufficiency. The multi-generational model also addresses goals for the children in the family which will focus on breaking the cycle of poverty.

2. Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI)

CFC is heavily engaged in the RMAPI with Marlene Besette serving as co-chair for the Systems Design Team and John Paul Perez as co-chair of the Housing Work Group. This initiative is sponsored by Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle, County Executive Maggie Brooks, and Mayor Lovely Warren and supported by a New York State Rochester Anti-Poverty Task Force formed by the Governor. This intensive work effort is currently focused on identifying and prioritizing the barriers members of our community face as they struggle to escape the stranglehold of poverty, develop solutions to those barriers and make overall recommendations covering policies, programs/services, and infrastructure. An initial report was published in September.

3. Looking at CFC Services in a New Way

The final strategy to address the root causes of poverty is to analyze all of the existing services and programs of CFC and to ask our clients about the obstacles they face as they strive to reach their full human potential. It's no longer business as usual. We want to bring fresh eyes to the good work we are doing, ask more penetrating questions, and find new ways to integrate and coordinate our own services in order to support our clients in their journey out of poverty.



Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga has developed a strategic plan to help individuals identify what self-sufficiency means to them and have each person help to identify goals that will help the process toward self-sufficiency. It has been the goal of Catholic Charities for many years to help people rise out of poverty. New York poverty level is 15.3 % and in Tompkins County it is 20.5% and in Tioga County it is 9.3%.

The agency has created a position called Service Navigator, a staff person who will work one-on-one with an individual or family to advocate for services. The Service Navigator will work on many aspects of a person's situation such as money management skills, lack of education, employment, lack of affordable housing, etc. The position can help someone develop a resume, do mock interviews, search and apply for a job and find stable housing. The position will also help a person fill out paperwork such as Department of Social Services paperwork for temporary assistance. Once certain referrals are in place the Service Navigator will follow up to see how things are going and continue to help an individual or family make progress toward climbing out of poverty. Below is a story on how the Service Navigator can help support someone in a difficult situation:

In early June "Sarah" found herself in the hospital with a serious infection in her heart and lungs. The same week that Sarah ended up in the hospital she had been involved in a domestic situation that left her without a home or any of her clothes or belongings. She was terrified about the prospect of being released from the hospital without a safe place to call home as she recovered from her illness. Sarah also realized that she would be without any clothing, shoes or household items. She contacted Catholic Charities Service Navigator from her hospital bed and explained her situation. Sarah and the Service Navigator were able to work together over the phone and via fax to secure a room in an appropriate supportive housing environment that would be ready for her when it was time for her to leave the hospital. The Service Navigator and Sarah also worked to make various medical and mental health appointments for her aftercare. On the day she was released from the hospital she came to the Samaritan Center's clothing closet where she was able to acquire some clothing and shoes. By the middle of June Sarah had obtained stable and safe housing as well as clothes and shoes and she reports that she is recovering nicely from her illness. Sarah is on a path to a healthy and happy life and continues to check in regularly with the Service Navigator. When Sarah is feeling better, she and the Service Navigator have a plan to create a resume for Sarah and work together to seek employment.



Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes took a summer count of homeless individuals in Ontario County. This is the first time that an effort was made to do a homeless census on a single night. Previously many human service agencies conducted a month-long survey of clients who were homeless or homeless vulnerable, hoping to get a sense of their needs and circumstances. The activity stems from the agency's participation in the Nowhere to Go Community Forum, an initiative that was formed to identify and address the needs of homeless individuals in Canandaigua, and has now given renewed attention and energy to homelessness prevention and efforts across the county. On the evening of July 29, volunteers teamed up in groups and conducted outreach efforts to areas where individuals who lack permanent housing or nighttime shelter might frequent. The group targeted parks, the back of shopping centers, and various locations in Geneva, Canandaigua, Victor and Farmington, hoping to get a sense of the number of unsheltered individuals in the County. In addition to taking a count, the volunteers provided information on community resources as well as emergency supply packs to help identified homeless individuals manage in the extreme summer weather. Conversations from the Nowhere to Go Forum have been instrumental in helping Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes respond to community needs, including developing a process for homeless individuals to access showers and laundry facilities. Agency staff and community partners are looking forward to the information generated from this point in time count as a crucial next step in working to eliminate homelessness in Ontario County.

Catholic Charities of Steuben County

The Steuben County Bridges Out of Poverty coalition is a community based, collaborative group led by Catholic Charities of Steuben County. The mission of the collaboration is to connect people in poverty to resources of opportunity. Four fields of activity are embraced to accomplish the mission: the group leads community efforts to train, embed, model, and spread the Bridges Out of Poverty approach according to the history, leadership, best practices, and unique characteristics of Steuben County.

1. TRAIN-

Bridges Out of Poverty training is the foundation for those involved with the coalition, and is the catalyst that launched the

coalition in 2010. Today, three local certified Bridges Out of Poverty trainers are equipped and licensed to train within our coalition. More information about training can be found at www.ahaprocess.com.

2. EMBED-

When we define poverty as "the extent to which an individual does without resources," we engage and learn from people in poverty by involving them as planners and decision makers. We bring people together across class lines to solve individual and community problems. We support the transition out of poverty, and work to eliminate it.

3. MODEL-

Getting Ahead is a small group experience for people in situational or generational poverty. A trained facilitator uses a 15 week curriculum, *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World: Building Your Resources for a Better Life* by Philip DeVol. Adults living with limited resources work in groups to examine the impact that poverty (limited resources) has on themselves and their communities. Steuben County Bridges has just facilitated its 4th Getting Ahead group of 11 new graduates- for a total of 39 GA Grads within our coalition.

4. SPREAD-

As a result of the Getting Ahead experience, people in poverty are linked to resources of opportunity, and community allies provide continued social and/or leveraging support. Grads assist with local poverty simulation and other community education efforts aimed at dispelling the myths of poverty and increasing community awareness and understanding.

What do people do when they graduate from Getting Ahead?

Graduates are offered continued involvement in coalition leadership, activities, and support from community allies to reach their personal goals.

Catholic Charities of Livingston County

Three Livingston County Agencies - Livingston County, Work-Force New York, and Catholic Charities of Livingston County have been collaborating as service providers to assist individuals with gaining employment by alleviating employment barriers. The Employment System officially started January 1, 2013, and continues to date. The joint-agency collaboration efforts provides exceptional employment case management services to the people of Livingston County - both individually and through group efforts, including classroom settings and community sites - in order to obtain basic employment skills, assist with English as a second language, obtain a high school diploma, as well as advance in higher education.

In 2014, Catholic Charities alone served 337 people in the employment program. Of that 337, 128 people gained employment.



MR. J'S STORY

"Mr. J" had worked for several years as a full-time cook. He made a poor decision and ended up with a felony DWI charge. He was terminated from his position because of the charges (it was a state job which does not allow for any felony convictions on record). This was after the employer tried to get an exemption not to terminate this particular person because he had done such an incredible job. Once "Mr. J" served his sentence, he was placed on probation. "Mr. J" applied to Catholic Charities of Livingston County to complete his community service hours. During the time Mr. J was completing his community service hours, he had to apply for public assistance to help support his family, at which time he was mandated to go through the employment program to continue to receive temporary assistance benefits. "Mr. J" was now working with Catholic Charities of Livingston's Employment Program to assist him with gaining the experience needed in order to obtain a job. While at CCLC, "Mr. J" was a very hard worker who took pride in everything that he did. He was detail oriented and always went above and beyond to make sure the job was done exceptionally.

After nine months of working in the Employment Program, "Mr. J" had landed a full-time job. While transportation could have been an issue because there is not a bus run during the time he needed, "Mr. J" made the decision to overcome the barrier, and ride his bike to and from work. To date, "Mr. J" has been employed for a couple months. He continues to ride his bike to work. "Mr. J" gets up at 3:00 am in order to allow for enough time to get to work by 5:30 am. "Mr. J's" temporary assistance case has since closed with Department of Social Services. When "Mr. J" has a day off from work, he has continued to volunteer at CCLC's Food Pantry in order to give back to others in need.

Catholic Charities of Wayne County

In June Catholic Charities of Wayne County was pleased to announce winners of its first-ever Board Scholarship for College Bound Students! Six students were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships, made possible by the generous donations of Catholic Charities of Wayne County board members. Our College Bound Program is offered currently in 6 school districts: Lyons, North-Rose Wolcott, Clyde-Savannah, Newark, Palmyra-Macedon, and Red Creek. College Bound provides extra support and encouragement for students who will be the first in their families to attend college. The program is free to all participants and offers assistance in researching college and career options, completing college and financial aid applications, visits and tours of area colleges, and other individualized services to meet the unique needs of each student. Students are identified as potential participants in the program by their school guidance counselors.



Catholic Charities Community Services

From just 12 clients in 1980 to over two thousand in 2014, Catholic Charities Community Services continues to have a long term impact on the lives of those we serve... people like Deniese, who has been with us for over 17 years. As a Haitian refugee, Deniese landed on the shores of our country with her infant son and their clothes in a sack. She was poor, had no home, no education, no way to support her family. Deniese also had a long term health concern which if not monitored carefully, could easily have resulted in her inability to live a full and meaningful life. With services and support from our agency, Deniese was able to help herself and her family. Today, Deniese works a full-time job, assists in the community and is a member of our Consumer Advisory Board. By sharing her story with others, she shows how a person can overcome tremendous odds to reach their fullest potential. Her journey is an inspiration.



Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties

Catholic Charities offers the support that many neighbors need to make a better life for themselves and their families and to become self-sufficient. Our First Time Homebuyer Program helps break the cycle of poverty by helping low/moderate income individuals/families purchase their first home in the City of Elmira. To date, over the last two decades, 426 families have successfully achieved their dream of homeownership and are building assets - the primary way many of us build wealth. Owning a home brings family and neighborhood stability and security, and "a place of belonging and a step up for my children," stated Jessica, a successful homeowner for three years.

Catholic Charities' Network of Food Pantries serves over 300 households every month in both Chemung and Schuyler Counties. This emergency food is part of the safety net that helps families make ends meet each month. During their visit, individuals or families may also find that there are other services or referrals that staff can make in order to help their families overcome their current situation.



For many people, stability makes a world of difference. Homelessness, mental health issues, lack of medical prescriptions or a disability can send anyone down a path that seems hopeless. Catholic Charities' staff are there to share hope and work with clients to bring that needed stability into their lives. Case management helps those in our Housing Solutions Programs live independently in the community while knowing that they have a network of support. For someone like Raymond, it had been "twenty years...really" since he had felt stable in his life. He continued to share, "for once...I don't have to worry."

Our First Step Victim Services program provides advocacy and referral services to all victims of crime in Chemung and Schuyler Counties, with a strong focus on victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse. Through education, support groups and court accompaniment, our Advocates are helping victims regain stability one day at a time. Supporting victims with gas cards, personal care items, food and transportation can make the transition easier on all members of their families. This program also seeks to prevent domestic violence through awareness campaigns and education for teenagers in order to counteract the poverty that often goes hand in hand with abuse.

Food Bank of the Southern Tier



As Abigail Hoad walks home from school on a Friday afternoon, it's incredible to think that the backpack she is wearing will completely change the weekend for her family.

Nine-year-old Abigail is one of four children. Her brother Benton is seven, and her twin sisters Jana and Julie are six. All of them are participants in the Food Bank's BackPack Program™.

"Those backpacks allow our family dynamics to change," says Benton Hoad, the children's father. "It lets us shave a little money off our grocery bill, so we can keep our heads above water."

Benton, a former oil field truck driver, is now a stay-at-home dad. His wife, Cassandra, recently got her degree and works as a veterinary technician.

"We make between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per month," says Benton. "We live paycheck to paycheck—pay our bills and that's about it. Those backpacks coming home mean a better week for us."

Benton doesn't see himself as downtrodden—just someone who is working hard to make ends meet.

"It takes a lot to raise a family," he says. "Some people have a misperception about who is getting this food. But it's a lot of middle class, upstanding citizens."

He expresses concern about those less fortunate than his family. "It could be your child's best friend," he says. "Some of these kids may be going home to nothing. That backpack could mean they have a good meal over the weekend."

While the backpacks Abigail and her siblings carry home mean better nutrition, they also mean a happier life. On a Saturday morning, you might see the four children—still in their pajamas—watching cartoons while eating spoonfuls of peanut butter.

Abigail sums up her family's gratitude in a thank you note: "Dear donor: I love that you help our family by giving us food and I personally love the string cheese. Thank you!"

Abigail smiles and runs off, bounding with energy—thanks to a backpack that she carried home herself.

Providence Housing

Providence currently manages 22 properties with 750 units in our 12 County Diocese providing supportive services to improve their clients quality of life. They are:

Atwood Park, 4 Atwood Dr., 33 units (1 Bdrms), Rochester, NY 14606, Seniors 62+.

Brown Street Apts., Office: 414 Lexington Ave., 15 Units (2 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14613, Family Properties: Scattered Sites

Carlson Commons, Office: 70 Coretta Scott Crossings, 77 Units 2, 3, 4, 5 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14608, Family Properties: Scattered Sites

Clark Park Apartments, Office: 235 Genesee St., 8 Units (2, 3 Bdrm), Geneva, NY 14456, Family - Homeless Housing Properties: 5-11 Clark Street & 257-263 E. North St.

Clemens Manor, 201 East Church St., 30 Units (1, 2 Bdrm), Elmira, NY 14901, Senior 55+

Elizabeth Blackwell, 235 Genesee St., 20 Units (1 Bdrm), Geneva, NY 14456, Disabled

Holy Rosary Apartments, 414 Lexington Ave., 60 Units (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 Bdrm) Rochester, NY 14613, Family

McNiff Commons, 401 Powell St., 11 units (1 Bdrm), Elmira, NY 14904, Mentally Disabled

Near Westside, Office: 414 Lexington Ave., 26 Units (2 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14613, Family Properties: Scattered Sites

Northern Star, Office: 414 Lexington Ave., 11 Units (2-5 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14613, Family Properties: Scattered Sites

Olean Heights, Office: 70 Coretta Scott Crossings, 32 Units (3-5 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14608, Family Properties: Scattered Sites

Paul Wolk Commons, 435 State St., 45 Units (1 Bdrm), Rochester, NY 14608, Family

Plymouth Manor, Office: 70 Coretta Scott Crossings, 67 Units (2, 3, 4, 5 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14608, Family Properties: Scattered Sites

Rivendell Court, Office: 435 State St., 19 Units (0, 1, 2 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14608, Family Properties: 13, 15, 19 Rowley St., Roch., NY 14608

Shortsville Meadows, 45 East Ave., 20 Units (1, 2 Bdrm), Shortsville, NY 14548, Family

Son House Apartments, 539 Joseph Ave., 21 Units (1 Bdrm), Rochester, NY 14605, Single/Homeless/Disabled

St. Andrews, Office: 1180 Buffalo Rd., 13 Units (1, 2 Bdrm), Roch., NY 14624, Disabled Properties: Scattered Sites

St. Salome, Office: 4260 Culver Rd., 45 units (1, 2 Bdrm), Rochester, NY 14622, Senior 55+

Union Meadows, 1 Linnea Lane, 48 Units (1, 2, 3 Bdrm), N. Chili, NY 14514, Family

Union Meadows II, Office: 49 Union Square Blvd., 42 Units (1, 2, 3 Bdrm), N. Chili, NY 14514, Family

Union Park, 49 Union Square Blvd., 50 Units (1, 2 Bdrm), N. Chili, NY 14514, Senior 55+

West Town Village, 60 Hendrix Rd., 59 Units, West Henrietta, NY 14586, Senior 55+

Camp Stella Maris

At Camp Stella Maris, we know that poverty is an important issue in the communities that we serve. We strive to address this issue in two major ways. We believe that every child, regardless of finances, should have the opportunity to experience summer camp. We know that children who face poverty and hardships at home can benefit tremendously from the Christ-centered, safe, and loving environment that our staff provides. Thanks to our generous supporters and volunteers, the Camp Stella Maris Campership Fund will provide full and partial scholarships to over 350 children and their families this summer.

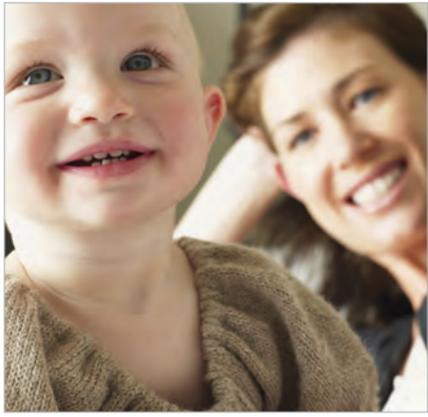
On September 3rd, Camp Stella Maris hosted our 7th Annual Camp Stella Maris Golf Classic at Bristol Harbour Resort. All proceeds from this event will go directly to benefit the Campership Fund.

In addition to our scholarship program, Camp Stella Maris has begun a new initiative to educate our staff on issues of poverty. During Camp's Summer Staff Training Week, over 100 CSM staff engaged in a day of volunteering in order to gain a better understanding of the issues facing many of our campers and their families. CSM staff spent the day learning from and working with staff and children at the Hornell Area Concern for Youth Inc., the House of Mercy, the Center for Youth, and several other organizations throughout Monroe and Livingston counties. It is our goal to continue this volunteer day for many years to come.

Life Support: Updates from Life Issues

Victory for Women and Unborn Children!

10,362 signatures were gathered from parishes around the Diocese on Public Policy Weekend in February in opposition to abortion expansion and in support of the other points of the Women's Equality Act (WEA) that would truly benefit women, requesting that New York State Assemblymembers pass the life-affirming provisions as individual bills by the end of this session. The State Senate had already passed them in January. This would end the impasse that prevented passage of these provisions in the past two legislative sessions.



The life-affirming provisions of the WEA:

- Protect survivors of domestic violence from housing discrimination and make it easier and safer for them to obtain Orders of Protection against their abusers.
- Require pay equity for women (equal pay for equal work).
- Protect victims of human trafficking, raising the penalties for this crime and strengthening investigative tools to bring charges against traffickers.
- Ban sexual harassment in all workplaces regardless of the number of employees and make it more financially possible for victims of sexual harassment to take their cases to court.
- Require reasonable accommodation for pregnant women in the workplace and outlaw workplace discrimination against people with children.

While it took until the very end of the legislative session in late June, ALL OF THESE PROVISIONS WERE PASSED by the Assembly and can now become law!

Moreover, the abortion expansion provision in the Women's Equality Act will not become law! This bill would have legalized abortion in the third trimester and opened the door for non-physicians to perform abortions. With your help, the New York State Catholic Conference and our Diocesan Public Policy Committee have strongly and successfully opposed this bill in the various forms it has taken over the past several years.

Your advocacy has defended the dignity of women and saved the lives of pre-born children. Thank you!

Leadership Development Training Program

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester has teamed up with St. John Fisher College's Center for Community Engagement to offer a unique leadership development experience. Beginning in March of this year, twenty-five emerging leaders from many of our Catholic Charities organizations enrolled in the Certificate for Non-Profit Management, a comprehensive training program that provides the skills and information necessary to become a successful manager of a non-profit organization. In this unique, cohort based model, the curriculum has been enhanced to address elements of Catholic Social Teaching that are at the core of Catholic Charities. The program evolved from a series of conversations held between leadership of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester and the staff of St. John Fisher College's Center for Community Engagement. While previous leadership development courses have been provided to staff of Catholic Charities from across the Diocese, prior sessions have focused largely on the Catholic identity of the organization. This agreement blends leadership and management theory with our Catholic identity, making for a curriculum that is academically robust as well as focused on our unique identity as Catholic human service organizations.

Coordinated by Dr. Ellen Wayne, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes and adjunct faculty member for St. John Fisher College, the courses are taught by Wayne and additional faculty from the Center for Community Engagement. With courses including a general overview of non-profit management, communications, budgeting, resource development and human resource management, the program will play a significant role in developing the emerging leaders of the greater Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester network. Given the diversity of funding sources and regulatory environments, the ever-changing dynamics of service delivery, and the complexity of needs plaguing the poor and vulnerable, this program is a true investment in the ability of our organization to remain viable and relevant in our efforts to address poverty and matters of social justice throughout the greater Diocese of Rochester.

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Inside this Issue:

- Public Policy Committee Focus on Children and Families in Poverty
- Regional Roundup
- Victory for Women and Unborn Children

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