



March 19, 2021
Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Catholic Charities Director Jack Balinsky announces upcoming retirement

‘Tireless in his service to the mission of Catholic Charities’



Mr. Jack Balinsky

Jack Balinsky, longtime director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, has announced his retirement, effective September 1st, 2021.

Mr. Balinsky said he made the decision to retire upon the occasion of his 75th birthday, which he celebrates this month; September 1st also marks the 50th anniversary of his work with Catholic Charities beginning in Syracuse and for nearly 30 years in the Diocese of Rochester. “I am looking forward to this next phase of my life firm in the knowledge that the work of Catholic Charities is in good hands with so many dedicated people devoted to our mission. It has been an honor to serve. I express my deepest thanks to Bishop Emeritus Clark and Bishop Matano, the many outstanding priests of the Diocese, women religious who have volunteered with us and the more than 200 persons who serve as lay leaders on our boards. I stand in awe and admiration of all for their outstanding good work and especially for their creativity and flexibility in enabling us to provide service during the COVID pandemic.”

A search for a successor will be initiated.

The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester, said, “Mr. Balinsky has been an extraordinary leader who has been tireless in his service to the mission of Catholic Charities. He has greatly expanded the services of the organization over his many years of devotion to the cause of helping those in need. He truly has lived the Gospel in his work. He will be greatly missed. May God bless this next phase of his life.”

Mr. Balinsky, a native of Syracuse, has been diocesan director of Catholic Charities since 1992. He is credited with vastly expanding the services and presence of Catholic Charities in the 12-county Diocese, from three subsidiary agencies to 10. Before joining the Diocese of Rochester, Mr. Balinsky served in a variety of roles in the Diocese of Syracuse Catholic Charities from 1971-1984, including as Syracuse Area Director. From 1984-1990, he was executive secretary of the State Council of Catholic Charities Directors in Albany, and from 1990-1992 served as executive director of the DuLac Community Development Corp., also in Albany.

Mr. Balinsky is a 1967 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he achieved distinction as class valedictorian. In addition, he holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from Princeton University.

He also has made a life's work of chronicling the long service of Catholic Charities, researching, and writing multiple volumes of the history of Catholic Charities in Rochester and New York State. These works can be accessed at www.balinsky.org.

In September 2010, he was given a Centennial Medal by Catholic Charities USA, one of only 100 to be awarded nationally during the organization's 100th Anniversary celebration that year. In 2011, he was awarded the prestigious J. Alan Davitt Award for Exemplary Service by the New York State Catholic Conference, which represents the Catholic Bishops of New York in matters of public policy. In addition, the New York State Legislature honored Balinsky on the occasion of the awarding of the J. Alan Davitt Award with a special Legislative Resolution, calling him a "true asset to society" with a "distinguished record meriting the respect and recognition of the Legislature." Bishop Clark said of Mr. Balinsky then, "You truly have made this your life's work and mission, and this has meant life-changing help for those who need it most. You exemplify the word 'service' and you honor the name 'Christian.'" In September 2012, he was presented by the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees with the highest award of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, the Bishop Clark Award.

Mr. Balinsky directs a diocesan Catholic Charities family of agencies and affiliates that serve more than 250,000 people annually, regardless of religious affiliation, in such areas as home-purchase assistance; senior services; emergency services for food, clothing and housing; help for the homeless; assistance to developmentally disabled people; help for people with mental illness; migrant-family assistance; and help with addiction, among others. For more information about Catholic Charities, visit <https://www.dor.org/about/office-ministry-directory/catholic-charities/>

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