



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 11, 2020

Dear Catholic Charities Caregivers:

For most of you, it probably seems like a lifetime since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. So many healthcare workers have described the past two months as surreal—an experience that has challenged like no other. As we carry the cross together, facing the devastating effects of COVID-19, your compassionate, sacrificial and heroic dedication in caring for the sick and suffering during this unprecedented time is an inspiration to me and a sign of hope.

On behalf of the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I thank you, our Catholic Charities doctors, nurses and other healthcare and direct service providers who are on the front lines serving tens of thousands of our most vulnerable Long Islanders. Your round-the-clock care for the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill, seniors in special housing and single, pregnant young moms and their babies is the Church itself living out the Gospel message in a compassionate battle with COVID-19.

In recognition of each and every one of you, on Sunday, May 17, 2020, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, in the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, I will celebrate a White Mass, offering prayers for the safety and well-being of all Healthcare Workers. Named for the white coats and uniforms worn by many healthcare professionals, White Masses are special opportunities to ask God's blessings for all those serving in the health field.

I invite you to participate in this Mass virtually. The Mass will be broadcasted on Catholic Faith Network (CFN), beginning at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 17**. CFN is found on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296 and Spectrum channel 162/471. The Mass can also be viewed at any time after 11:00 a.m. on cfntv.org, drvc.org and on Diocese of Rockville Centre social media platforms, as well as CHS social media. You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Android or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching for "Catholic Faith Network" or "CFN". In the tri-state area, the Mass will air at 11 a.m. on WLNY-TV 55, Ch. 10 and on select CBS stations nationally, check your local listings.

Thank you again for embracing the Catholic mission exemplified by our Catholic Charities of Long Island and for your continued efforts to defeat COVID-19. You and your families will be remembered by me at the White Mass.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre