

ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE

WORLD DAY OF PHILOSOPHY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES: HELPING THE POOR IN THE
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 1910-PRESENT**

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PREFACE

IT IS NOT EASY TO BE A CATHOLIC TODAY. CONTINUING FALL-OUT FROM THE CHILD SEX ABUSE SCANDAL, CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE ELECTION, SIGNIFICANTLY DECLINING PARTICIPATION OF CATHOLICS, FALLING NUMBER OF PRIESTS AND THE LIST GOES ON.

I'M HERE TONIGHT PROUD TO BE A CATHOLIC AND PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE DIOCESE OVER 100 YEARS IN DIRECTLY SERVING THE POOR AND IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY.

INTRODUCTION

LET ME BEGIN WITH AN APOCRYPHAL STORY OF A PRIMITIVE VILLAGE – FROM WHEREEVER AND WHATEVER TIME. RELIGIOUS IN NATURE, AND THEREFORE, CONCERNED ABOUT HELPING OTHERS, THE VILLAGERS BECAME ALARMED WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE APPEARED A SUCCESSION OF YOUNG CHILDREN FLOATING HOPELESSLY DOWN THE STREAM WHICH RAN THROUGH THEIR VILLAGE SO. SO, THEY SET ABOUT RESCUING THE CHILDREN ONE BY ONE, BUT AFTER A TIME WHAT HAD BEGUN AS A TRICKLE TURNED INTO A TORRENT – SO MANY CHILDREN THAT ALL COULDN'T BE RESCUED. FINALLY, IT DAWNED UPON VILLAGE ELDERS THAT THEY SHOULD TRAVEL UPSTREAM TO FIND OUT WHY THESE CHILDREN WERE APPEARING. THERE, THEY FOUND “THE EVIL ONES” WHO WERE LAUNCHING THE CHILDREN ON THEIR WAY. THEY THEN WENT ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF CONFRONTING THE EVILDOERS.

I BEGIN WITH THIS APOCRYPHAL STORY TO ILLUSTRATE WHY CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAS TO BE ABOUT BOTH DIRECT SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY TO TRULY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE POOR.

TONIGHT, I WILL DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE HAS ENGAGED IN SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY OVER THE LAST CENTURY BE DESCRIBING TEN SIGNAL MOMENTS IN OUR STORIED 100 YEAR HISTORY.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

TO UNDERSTAND THE WORK, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT HAS EVOLVED IN THESE LAST YEARS, EVEN THOUGH ROCHESTER CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS INDEPENDENTLY GOVERNED IT HAS BEEN GUIDED BY THE EVOLUTION OF THE LARGER CATHOLIC CHURCH STRUCTURE. NOT KNOWING THE LEVEL OF FAMILIARITY AMONG THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE ABOUT THE STRUCTURES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, I PREFACE MY COMMENTS BY A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THOSE STRUCTURES AT THE INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, STATE AND DIOCESAN LEVEL.

INTERNATIONALLY, OF COURSE, WE BEGIN WITH THE POPE AND HIS STAFF, KNOWN AS THE VATICAN CURIA. PERHAPS NOT EVERY ONE IS FAMILIAR WITH PAPAL ENCYCLICALS, STATEMENTS ISSUED OVER THE LAST 100 PLUS YEARS APPLYING PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC TEACHING, KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS “CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING” TO CONTEMPORARY CONDITIONS. AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, IMPORTANT ALSO TO OUR DISCUSSION ARE THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL, CONVENED BY POPE JOHN XIII

FROM WHICH WERE ISSUED SIXTEEN DOCUMENTS SIGNIFICANT TO THE EVOLUTION OF CATHOLIC CHURCH ACTIVITY OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS.

NATIONALLY, FIRST CONVENED IN 1919, AND FORMALLY ORGANIZED IN 1986, IS THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS, CREATED AS A MECHANISM FOR SHARING AND COLLABORATION AMONG THE 200 CATHOLIC DIOCESES IN THE COUNTRY, AND ENABLING THE CHURCH TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE NATIONALLY ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES.

AT THE **STATE** LEVEL, IN MY MIND, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHURCH AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS INFLUENCING SOCIETY IS THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS. IT WAS CREATED IN 1916 (THE NEXT SUCH STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED IN OHIO IN 1944) AND HAS HAD MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC POLICY IN NEW YORK STATE OVER THE LAST CENTURY.

AS YOU KNOW, THE **LOCAL** UNIT OF CHURCH GOVERNANCE IS THE DIOCESE. THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER IS COMPRISED OF 12 COUNTIES. WE ARE IN THE VERY NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE DIOCESE WHICH STRETCHES FROM LAKE ONTARIO TO THE PENNSYLVANIA BORDER AND AS FAR EAST AS GENEVA, AUBURN, ITHACA AND WAVERLY IN TIOGA COUNTY.

EACH OF THE APPROXIMATELY 200 DIOCESES IN THE COUNTRY HAVE A HUMAN SERVICES DELIVERY AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION, USUALLY CALLED **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**, BUT SOMETIMES CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, OR

COMMUNITY SERVICES, OR CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES. WE IN NEW YORK STATE HAVE COME TOGETHER, BEGINNING FORMALLY IN 1966 AS THE STATE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS, AND PARTICIPATE IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AS THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS IN 1910.

FOR THOSE OF YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THESE LATTER ORGANIZATIONS, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT MY WEBSITE

WWW.JACKBALINSKY.ORG ON WHICH ARE AVAILABLE THE NINE BOOKS I HAVE WRITTEN ON THESE CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK STATE AND ROCHESTER.

BUT, NOW, ON TO THE SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS IN OUR HISTORY, DESCRIBING NOT ONLY ACTIVITIES HERE BUT ALSO THEIR ROOTS IN THE LARGER CHURCH STRUCTURE. I BEGIN WITH A DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

PAPAL ENCYCLICALS

TAKEN TOGETHER, PAPAL ENCYCLICALS HAVE HELPED SHAPE THE STANCE OF THE CHURCH TOWARD SECULAR SOCIETY AND GREATLY INFLUENCED OUR WORK.

THE FIRST SUCH ENCYCLICAL, RERUM NOVARUM WAS PROMULGATED BY POPE LEO XIII IN 1891. RERUM NOVARUM, OF COURSE, IS LATIN FOR “OF NEW THINGS” AND IT REPRESENTED THE CHURCH’S RESPONSE TO THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULT WORKING CONDITIONS WHICH

EVOLVED ALONG WITH THE CREATION OF INDUSTRY, THIS DOCUMENT ENDORSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LABOR UNIONS AS GUARANTORS OF THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

THE NEXT ENCYCLICAL WAS ISSUED FORTY YEARS LATER, QUADRAGESIMO ANNOS AND DEALT WITH ISSUE OF ECONOMIC DEPRESSION AND IMPENDING WAR.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY HERE TO ENUMERATE EACH OF THE ENCYCLICALS, ISSUED IN GROWING FREQUENCY BY RECENT POPES, BUT I CONCLUDE THIS SECTION WITH THESE COMMENTS:

FIRST, WE IN THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY WERE GREATLY HEARTENED BY THE FIRST ENCYCLICAL WRITTEN BY POPE BENEDICT XVI, DEUS CARITAS EST (GOD IS LOVE) WHICH IS A RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF OUR WORK.

SECOND, TAKEN TOGETHER, ALONG WITH OTHER CHURCH STATEMENTS, THESE DOCUMENTS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF WHAT WE CALL CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, PRINCIPLES UNDERGIRDING OUR FAITH AND OUR WORK IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

AGAIN, A DETAILED EXPLICATION IS NOT POSSIBLE HERE, BUT IN SHORT FORM, THESE PRINCIPLES ARE:

- THE SACREDNESS AND DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE
- THE CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION
- HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- A PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR
- THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND UNITED STATES

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

THESE NATIONAL CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS HAVE HAD GREAT INFLUENCE ON OUR WORK. THE FIRST GATHERING OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEADERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN 1910 WHEN THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES WAS ESTABLISHED. THIS ORGANIZATION, NOW KNOWN AS CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA, HAS HAD A POWERFUL IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY. THIS INFLUENCE IS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF MANY HISTORIANS THAT "NO PIECE OF CHILD WELFARE PASSED CONGRESS OVER A THIRTY YEAR PERIOD FROM 1915-1945 WITHOUT THE IMPRIMATUR OF CONFERENCE DIRECTOR MONSIGNOR JOHN O'GRADY.

THIS INFLUENCE HAS CONTINUED. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE WITH A NUMBER OF BISHOPS AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS OF THE STATE IN SEPTEMBER, 1995, IN A MEETING WITH SENATORS AL D'AMATO AND DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN STRATEGIZING ON WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION. FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, SENATOR MOYNIHAN READ INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD A STATEMENT THAT IN HIS THIRTY YEARS IN WASHINGTON THERE HAD BEEN NO MORE CONSISTENT AND STRONGER VOICE ADVOCATING FOR THE POOR THAN THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

ENCOURAGED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CHARITIES ORGANIZATION IN 1910, AND BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS IN 1916, AND LED BY THESE SAME NEW YORK STATE BISHOPS, THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED

STATES OCCURRED IN 1919. THUS CAME INTO BEING WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS.

I WAS AMAZED WHEN I READ THE POLICY STATEMENT ADOPTED AT THAT FIRST GATHERING IN 1919 BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING. IT WAS, IN GREAT MEASURE, A COMPREHENSIVE BLUEPRINT FOR WHAT BECAME NEW DEAL LEGISLATION UNDER PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, CALLING AMONG OTHER THINGS FOR THE CREATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND AID-TO-DEPENDENT CHILDREN (WELFARE).

NOR WAS THE INFLUENCE OF THE BISHOPS CONFERENCE CONFINED TO THOSE EARLY DAYS. IN WHAT SOME SOCIAL PUNDITS CALL “THE CATHOLIC MOMENT”, THE BISHOPS PUBLICIZED TWO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN THE 1980’S: THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE IN 1983 AND THE PASTORAL ON THE ECONOMY IN 1986. I WILL DISCUSS LATER THEIR IMPACT ON CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL INFLUENCE ON OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY WAS THE VISION OF A CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE ARTICULATED BY CHICAGO CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN IN THE MID AND LATE 1980’S. TRYING TO BRING TOGETHER DISCONNECTED CHURCH ADVOCACY EFFORTS ON “LIFE ISSUES” AND “SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES”, HE ARGUED THAT THESE ISSUES WERE INEXTRICABLY INTERMINGLED AND THAT OUR CONSISTENT LIFE AGENDA SHOULD INCLUDE ABORTION, EUTHANASIA, DEATH PENALTY, POVERTY AND VIOLENCE/WAR. UNDER BISHOP CLARK’S LEADERSHIP, WE HAVE ADHERED TO THIS CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC APPROACH IN OUR DIOCESE OVER THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

MORE RECENTLY, THE NATIONAL BISHOPS' HAVE PUBLISHED QUADRENNIALLY IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEARS A DOCUMENT ENTITLED FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP. IN THIS DOCUMENT, THE BISHOPS CALL ON CITIZENS TO EXERCISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE AND DETAIL A SERIES OF ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN MAKING A VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE. I QUOTE FROM *FORMING CONSCIENCE FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP*.

“EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS A RIGHT TO LIFE, THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT THAT MAKES ALL OTHER RIGHTS POSSIBLE, AND THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO THOSE THINGS REQUIRED FOR HUMAN DECENCY – FOOD AND SHELTER, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING, FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND FAMILY LIFE.”

BOTH THE WORK OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA AND THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS HAVE INFLUENCED OUR ADVOCACY WORK IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES OVER THESE 100 YEARS.

WITH THIS BACKGROUND, I NOW TURN TO THE WORK OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY IN OUR DIOCESE BEGINNING IN 1910.

THE WORK OF BISHOP THOMAS HICKEY

THOMAS HICKEY WAS NAMED THE SECOND BISHOP OF ROCHESTER IN 1908. A NATIVE ROCHESTERIAN, HE HAD ALREADY BEEN A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. HIS WORK HAD GREAT INFLUENCE OF WHAT HAS BECOME CATHOLIC CHARITIES OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS.

WHEN HE CAME TO OFFICE, AROUND THE COUNTRY, CATHOLIC CHARITABLE ACTIVITY WAS GENERALLY CARRIED OUT BY INDIVIDUAL PARISHES AND BY COMMUNITIES OF RELIGIOUS WOMEN WHO ESTABLISHED ORPHANAGES,

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS TO CARE FOR THE ELDERLY. LIKE HIS COUNTERPARTS AROUND THE COUNTRY, BISHOP HICKEY ACTED TO COORDINATE AND CONSOLIDATE SUCH CHARITABLE ACTIVITY INTO A CENTRALIZED DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERESTING MOMENTS IN HIS CAREER:

- WHEN ROCHESTER'S LEGENDARY, GEORGE EASTMAN, CONVENEED THE UNITED CHARITIES OF ROCHESTER IN 1910, BISHOP HICKEY DETERMINED THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE (REMEMBER, EVEN THEN THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WAS STILL SOMEWHAT ON THE OUTSIDE.)
- HE DID BEGIN PLANNING IN LATE 1910, HOWEVER, FOR THE FIRST DIOCESAN CHARITABLE COLLECTION. THIS COLLECTION REALIZED \$6800 GIVEN TO ST. ANN'S HOME, ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL AND THREE PARISH ORPHANAGES.
- IN 1912, HE ESTABLISHED THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GUILD AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD CENTRALIZING CATHOLIC CHARITABLE ACTIVITY IN THE DIOCESE. THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GUILD WAS COMPRISED OF VOLUNTEER CATHOLIC LAYWOMEN. IN THEIR FIRST YEAR, THESE MEMBERS SERVED 500 FAMILIES, PAID \$1000 FOR WIDOW'S RENT AND FURNISHED 1600 QUARTS OF MILK.
- FOLLOWING HIS INTERVENTION IN 1914 TO STOP A RUN ON A BANK, FATHER JACOB STAUB, WITH BISHOP HICKEY'S BLESSING, CREATED THE FIRST FORMAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES PRESENCE IN THE DIOCESE. IT WAS CALLED THE RELIEF DEPARTMENT. IN 1915, FATHER STAUB HIRED THE FIRST PAID CATHOLIC CHARITIES PROFESSIONAL, KATHLEEN D'OLIER.

MS. D'OLIER LED THE AGENCY UNTIL 1952 AND WAS AN ICON IN THE ROCHESTER HUMAN SERVICES COMMUNITY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

- I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS WAS CREATED IN 1916. BISHOP HICKEY WAS A LEADER IN THE GROUP, AND HAD THE INSPIRED VISION THAT TO LAY TO REST CHURCH-STATE CONCERNS IN THE USE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING BY CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS, SEPARATE CORPORATIONS, CALLED CATHOLIC CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATIONS, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. HE HIRED A ROCHESTER ATTORNEY, THOMAS MCCORMICK TO DRAFT SUCH LEGISLATION. IT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATOR ON APRIL 2, 1917 AND, AFTER PASSING BOTH HOUSES, WAS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR CHARLES WHITMAN ON APRIL 24, 1917. (IN TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE DEADLOCK, THE SPEED OF THAT ACCOMPLISHMENT IS MIRACULOUS.)
- FINALLY, REVERSING HIS PREVIOUS DECISION, IN 1918 BISHOP HICKEY ACCEPTED GEORGE EASTMAN'S INVITATION TO JOIN THE "WAR CHEST", LATER THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND NOW THE UNITED WAY. THIS SEMINAL DECISION INFLUENCED SUCH COOPERATION AROUND THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

SO, WITH THESE AND MANY OTHER ACTIONS, BISHOP HICKEY FORGED THE FOUNDATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES AS WE KNOW IT TODAY.

THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY 1910-1960

FOLLOWING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT WORK OF BISHOP HICKEY, LIKE MOST OF OUR SISTER DIOCESAN AGENCIES AROUND THE COUNTRY, CATHOLIC CHARITIES WAS BASICALLY A FAMILY SERVICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY, RUN BY CATHOLICS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A PRIEST DIRECTOR AND SERVING CATHOLICS.

OUR DIOCESAN DIRECTORS IN THIS TIME INCLUDED FATHER WALTER FOERY (WHO BECAME BISHOP OF SYRACUSE IN 1937), MONSIGNOR GERRY LAMBERT (WHO FOUNDED ST. JOSEPH VILLA IN 1942), FATHER RATIGAN (WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE NEW ST. ANN'S HOME IN 1963) AND MONSIGNOR DON MULCAHY.

IN THE MID 1950'S, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

IN MONROE COUNTY:

- ROCHESTER CATHOLIC CHARITIES, WHICH HAD BEEN RENAMED CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER IN 1959
- THE CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION CREATED IN 1935 AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST AS THE COLUMBUS YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND, IN KEEPING WITH THE EVOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC FOCUS ON YOUTH, RENAMED THE CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION IN 1955
- THE TWO SETTLEMENT HOUSES: CHARLES SETTLEMENT HOUSE AND GENESEE SETTLEMENT HOUSE, ESTABLISHED MUCH EARLIER IN THE CENTURY TO SERVE PRIMARILY ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS

- ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA, ESTABLISHED BY MONSIGNOR LAMBERT IN 1942 AS THE CONSOLIDATION OF PARISH ORPHANAGES
- CAMP STELLA MARIS, ESTABLISHED IN 1926
- ST. ANN'S HOME, WHOSE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH.

OUTSIDE MONROE COUNTY, THERE WERE TWO AGENCIES:

- ELMIRA CATHOLIC CHARITIES WHICH WOULD PERDURE FROM 1930-1972
- AUBURN CATHOLIC FAMILY WHICH EXISTED FROM 1955-1970

WITHOUT GOING INTO GREAT DETAIL, LET ME CITE THE SUMMARY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER AND CYO IN 1953 AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS WORK.

AT CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER, SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS WERE:

- 1000 APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY CASEWORK
- 300 APPLICATIONS FOR ADOPTION AND HOME FAMILY SERVICES
- SERVICE TO REFUGEES
- SERVICE TO NEWLY-ARRIVED PUERTO RICANS
- COOPERATIVE WORK WITH ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA
- COOPERATIVE WORK WITH CHARLES SETTLEMENT HOUSE AND GENESEE SETTLEMENT HOUSE (I WOULD BE REMISS HERE NOT TO MENTION MARY HANNICK, AN ICON IN HUMAN SERVICE DELIVERY IN ROCHESTER FOR THE LAST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY WHO SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF GENESEE SETTLEMENT HOUSE FROM 1947-1972, AND WHO CONTINUED HER VOLUNTEER HUMAN SERVICES WORK UP UNTIL HER DEATH LAST YEAR AT THE AGE OF 102. MY BOOK ON 100 YEARS OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS DEDICATED TO HER.)

AT THE CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION, WHOSE PRIMARY SERVICE CENTER WAS THE COLUMBUS CIVIC CENTER (50 CHESTNUT ST), 1953 SERVICES WERE:

- SUPERVISED PROGRAMS OF INDIVIDUAL SPORTS, SWIMMING, HEALTH ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION
- ORGANIZATION OF A TEEN AGE CLUB FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
- ADMINISTRATION OF SPORTS PROGRAMS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS
- ORGANIZATION OF SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAMS AND OTHER SPECIAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES

IN CLOSING, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DURING THIS TIME, CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES DID NOT GENERALLY ENGAGE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY.

BEFORE DISCUSSING THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RETURN TO A DISCUSSION OF THE LARGER ENVIRONMENT.

THE TUMULT OF THE 1960'S IN THE COUNTRY AND THE CHURCH

IN THE COUNTRY THE 1960'S BEGAN FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT AGENCIES IN 1959 WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONCEPT. WHILE CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES AND OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFITS HAD LONG WORKED IN COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT, THIS NEW CONCEPT RESULTED IN AN EXPLOSION OF FUNDING FOR NOT-FOR-PROFITS AND SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF SERVICES. WITH THIS IMPETUS, THE INITIATION OF THE "WAR ON POVERTY", AND THE CREATION OF MEDICAID AND MEDICARE, CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES BECAME INVOLVED

IN EVERYTHING FROM DRUG ABUSE AND HOUSING TO THE CARE OF MENTALLY ILL AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS, AS WELL AS ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.

WITHIN THE CHURCH, AMONG THE MANY OUTCOMES OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL WHOSE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WE ARE NOW CELEBRATING, WERE A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARENESS, INCLUDING PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR, A RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF THE LAITY, AND FURTHERANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY, I.E. THE RECOGNITION THAT ISSUES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.

I MENTION HERE BECAUSE OF THEIR DIRECT INFLUENCE ON OUR WORK TWO OF THE FOUR “CONSTITUTIONS”, WHICH WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE 16 DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE VATICAN COUNCIL: THE CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH AND THE PASTORAL CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD.

THE DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH (LUMEN GENTIUM) PRESENTED THE CHURCH AS A MYSTERY, AS A COMMUNION OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS, AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, AS THE BODY OF CHRIST AND AS A PILGRIM MOVING TOWARD FULFILLMENT IN HEAVEN BUT MARKED ON EARTH WITH “A SANCTITY THAT IS REAL, ALTHOUGH IMPERFECT.”

THE PASTORAL CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD (GAUDIUM ET SPES) SAID THE CHURCH MUST TALK TO ATHEISTS, A CONTINUAL CAMPAIGN MUST BE WAGED FOR PEACE, NUCLEAR WAR IS UNTHINKABLE AND AID TO UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS IS URGENT.

FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT A DOCUMENT EMANATING FROM THE WORLD SYNOD OF BISHOPS ARTICULATED THAT ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IS NOT OPTIONAL BUT A CONSTITUTIVE ELEMENT OF THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.

GIVEN THE CHANGES IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVICES AND THESE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, BY THE LATE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S, BISHOPS AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEADERS WERE ASKING QUESTIONS LIKE:

- NOT WHAT CAN WE DO, BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
- WHAT IS CATHOLIC ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES?
- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR ROOTEDNESS IN PARISHES?
- IF WE ACCEPT GOVERNMENT FUNDING, CAN WE STILL MAINTAIN OUR ROLE AS ADVOCATE WITH GOVERNMENT?
- SHOULD WE SERVE ONLY CATHOLICS OR ALL PERSONS IN NEED?

THESE QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED THROUGH THE CADRE REPORT ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN 1972.

THE CADRE REPORT OUTLINED A THREE-FOLD MISSION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES:

- THE QUALITY PROVISION OF DIRECT SERVICES (IT'S OK TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT FUNDING) ON A NON-DENOMINATIONAL BASIS (AND TO SERVE MORE THAN CATHOLICS)
- ADVOCACY FOR PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES THAT WOULD ASSIST INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL HUMAN POTENTIAL

- A CONVENING FUNCTION, CALLING TOGETHER LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITIES OF ALL DENOMINATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR CATHOLIC PARISHES, TO ADDRESS LOCAL ISSUES.

LET ME EXPAND A MOMENT ON THIS CONVENING FUNCTION, ALSO CALLED PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY. UNDERLYING THIS ELEMENT OF THE MISSION STATEMENT IS THE BELIEF THAT CATHOLIC CHARITIES SHOULD BE THE “LEAVEN” TO CALL UP FOR INDIVIDUAL CATHOLICS AND PARISH COMMUNITIES THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO GOD’S CALL TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR. HAPPILY, THIS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORK IN ROCHESTER. WE PARTNER WITH PARISHES ON SERVICE AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES, SERVE PARISHIONERS IN OUR PROGRAMS, ENABLE VOLUNTEERS FROM PARISHES TO WORK IN OUR PROGRAMS, AND RECEIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM PARISHES. THESE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS HAD GREAT IMPACT ON THE WORK OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THE 1960’S AND 1970’S, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BISHOPS FULTON SHEEN (1966-1969), JOSEPH HOGAN (1969-1979) AND MATTHEW CLARK (1979-2012.)

I DESCRIBE NOW IN TURN: INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY AS CARRIED OUT BY MISSIONARIES FROM OUR DIOCESE, LOCAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY WHICH LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE REORGANIZATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THE DIOCESE.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY – MISSIONS

THE PAPACY OF JOHN XVIII AND THEN THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL GAVE RISE TO FOREIGN MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE DIOCESE.

AT THE CELAM (CONFERENCE EPISCOPAL DE LATIN AMERICA) POPE JOHN CONVENED IN 1958, BISHOPS FROM SOUTH AMERICA AND LATIN AMERICA BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE POPE THE GREAT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO GROW THE CHURCH IN ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. THIS LED THE POPE TO ISSUE IN 1961 AN URGENT PLEA TO COMMUNITIES OF RELIGIOUS WOMEN TO SEND MISSIONARIES TO LATIN AMERICA.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST, THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH VOTED AT THEIR GENERAL CHAPTER IN EARLY 1963 TO SEND A MISSIONARY TEAM TO BRAZIL BECAUSE THE LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS HAD MENTIONED PARTICULARLY “THE PROTESTANT PERIL” IN BRAZIL. THIS WORK CONTINUES TODAY.

IN 1964, SISTER MARY BRIDE CLARE, SUPERIOR OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY OF ROCHESTER ATTENDED A TWO WEEK CONFERENCE IN LATE 1964 IN CUERNEVACA, WHICH PROVIDED BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT ESTABLISHING MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. IN 1965, SHE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A YOUNG IRISH PRIEST, KEVIN O’BOYLE, WHO WOODED HER AND THE CONGREGATION TO ESTABLISH A MISSION IN SANTIAGO, CHILE. THIS WORK ALSO CONTINUES TODAY.

A DIOCESAN MISSION PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED BY BISHOP KEARNEY IN 1968. HIS DECISION TO DO SO WAS INFLUENCED IN NO SMALL PART BY AUXILIARY BISHOP LAWRENCE CASEY, WHO HAD BEEN MOVED BY HIS CONTACTS WITH LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS AT THE VATICAN COUNCIL AND HAD COME TO KNOW THE BISHOP OF LAPAZ, BOLIVIA. HENCE, THE DECISION

WAS MADE TO SEND DIOCESAN PRIESTS TO LAPAZ TO STAFF A PARISH. THIS INITIATIVE LASTED ABOUT A DECADE BEFORE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PARISH WERE TURNED OVER TO LOCAL LEADERSHIP.

THIS WONDERFUL ELEMENT OF OUR WORK IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY IS DESCRIBED MORE FULLY IN MY BOOK SPirit ALIVE! FIFTY YEARS OF CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC ADVOCACY AND PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, AND IN MANY OTHER PLACES.

DIOCESAN SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY 1966-1980

BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN, A NATIONALLY KNOWN FIGURE WHO SERVED AS THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH (MISSIONARY ACTIVITY) AND WAS WIDELY KNOWN FOR HIS WEEKLY TELEVISION PROGRAM “LIFE IS WORTH LIVING”, WAS APPOINTED THE SIXTH BISHOP OF ROCHESTER IN DECEMBER, 1966. HIS EXPERIENCES WITH THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH HAD TAKEN HIM TO MANY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND HAD INSTILLED IN HIM A SPECIAL SENSITIVITY TO THE POOR. THESE EXPERIENCES LED HIM TO APPOINT AN URBAN VICAR AND THREE “SECULAR” (DIOCESAN PRIESTS AS OPPOSED TO RELIGIOUS ORDER PRIESTS) MISSIONARIES TO SERVE THE POOR IN RURAL AREAS OF THE DIOCESE AT A GRASSROOTS LEVEL. THEIR WORK IS ALSO DESCRIBED MORE FULLY IN MY WORK SPirit ALIVE!, BUT I WANT TO JUST SAY A WORD HERE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE URBAN VICAR, FATHER P. DAVID FINKS, WHO WAS APPOINTED BY BISHOP SHEEN IN HIS FIRST TWO WEEKS HERE. FATHER FINKS LED WHAT WAS TO BECOME A MAJOR ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ADVOCATING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FIGHT ORGANIZATION, LED BY REVEREND FRANKLIN FLORENCE.

THE URBAN AND RURAL INITIATIVES WERE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN 1970, THE NAME INSPIRED IN PART BY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BY THE NATIONAL BISHOPS. A KEY MOMENT IN THE EVOLUTION OF OUR WORK CAME WITH THE APPOINTMENT IN 1971 BY BISHOP HOGAN OF A DIOCESAN PRIEST, FATHER CHARLES MULLIGAN, AS ITS DIRECTOR. THE WORK OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FROM 1970-1980 IS ALSO DESCRIBED FULLY IN SPIRIT ALIVE!. ITS COMPONENTS WERE: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, THE DIOCESAN HUMAN LIFE COMMISSION, THE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMITTEE, RURAL MINISTRY AND URBAN MINISTRY. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ALL OF THIS WORK WAS CARRIED OUT ON A PARALLEL TRACK OUTSIDE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES (CONTINUING THE PRACTICE OF THE PREVIOUS FIFTY YEARS) WHICH CONTINUED UNDER DIOCESAN DIRECTORS FATHERS BILL CHARBONNEU AND JOE D'AURIZIO TO BE A SERVICE-ORIENTED, UNITED WAY FUNDED ENTITY. IT WAS FATHER MULLIGAN WHO LED THE INTEGRATION OF THESE ACTIVITIES BEGINNING WITH THE REORGANIZATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN 1977.

REORGANIZATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES (1977)

AS A RESULT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, BISHOP HOGAN RENAMED THE DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES ORGANIZATION, CHANGING IT TO THE DIOCESAN OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY AND APPOINTED FATHER MULLIGAN AS DIOCESAN DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1977. IT WAS FATHER MULLIGAN'S VISION THAT LED TO THE NAME CHANGE. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE NAME CATHOLIC

CHARITIES DID NOT FULLY CONVEY THE THREE-FOLD MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN 1972. HE RECOMMENDED THE TERM “MINISTRY” BECAUSE HE FELT THAT CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAD BECOME SOMEWHAT DISTANT FROM THE DIOCESE AND PARISHES AND THE TERM MINISTRY WOULD EMPHASIZE A STRONGER CONNECTEDNESS. HE RECOMMENDED THE TERM “SOCIAL” BECAUSE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES, WORKING WITH PARISHES ON ADVOCACY – PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY, AND SOCIALLY CONNECTING PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS THROUGH CHAPLAINCY SERVICES.

IN 1979, FATHER MULLIGAN AND BOARD LEADERS PRESENTED BISHOP CLARK A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES. THE FIVE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE PLAN HAVE FORMED THE EVOLUTION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS:

- THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL, DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE
- STRONG PARTICIPATION OF LAY LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNANCE
- THE INTEGRATION OF THE SERVICE AND ADVOCACY FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY
- RECONNECTION WITH PARISHES THROUGH A STRONG EMPHASIS ON PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUSTICE AND PEACE DEPARTMENT IN THE DIOCESAN OFFICE AS THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

THE PLAN LAID OUT A BLUEPRINT FOR DECENTRALIZATION BEGINNING WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE SOUTHERN TIER AND FINGER LAKES. THE SOUTHERN TIER OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY, COVERING A FIVE COUNTY AREA, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1980 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FATHER NEIL MILLER, AND THE FINGER LAKES OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY, ALSO COVERING A FIVE COUNTY AREA, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1982 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GIOVINA CAROSCIO. EACH ENTITY, UNDER LOCAL BOARD LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPED ITS UNIQUE SET OF SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY NEED AND IN COLLABORATION WITH EXISTING AGENCIES, IN KEEPING WITH THE THREE FOLD MISSION ARTICULATED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

FURTHER EVOLUTION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND SOCIAL JSUTICE

ADVOCACY 1980-PRESENT

INTRODUCTION

THESE MONUMENTAL CHANGES IN MISSION AND STRUCTURE SET THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORK OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITY IN THE DIOCESE OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS, ALL MADE POSSIBLE BY THE STRONG AND UNTIRING LEADERSHIP OF BISHOP CLARK.

THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

IT IS NOT MY INTENT HERE TO DESCRIBE IN GREAT DETAIL THE EVOLUTION OF THE WORK OF DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES. FOR THAT I REFER YOU TO MY BOOK CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 1910-2010. RATHER, I CITE THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS:

- IN 1982, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE CONSISTED OF CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER AND C.Y.O. IN MONROE COUNTY, THE SOUTHERN TIER OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY AND THE FINGER LAKES OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY. (CAMP STELLA MARIS HAD BECOME A SEPARATE CORPORATION AND AFFILIATE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN 1977.) IN ACCORD WITH THE 1972 NATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT, THE FOCUS WAS ON DIRECT SERVICE, ADVOCACY AND PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY.
- IN 1985, THE BISHOP AND DIOCESAN BOARD ADOPTED BY-LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR GOVERNANCE OF THIS NEW DECENTRALIZED STRUCTURE, AN UNDERTAKING I LABEL THE “NOBLE EXPERIMENT”.
- IN 1992, WHAT IS NOW CALLED CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY SERVICES, WHICH HAD BEEN INITIATED AS A PROGRAM SERVING DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS, AND NOW ALSO SERVES PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS AND THOSE SUFFERING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, WAS ESTABLISHED AS A NEW SEPARATE SUBSIDIARY WITHIN THE DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES CORPORATION.
- IN 1994, IN CONCERT WITH A NATIONAL “BRANDING” CAMPAIGN, THE DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION, THE FINGER LAKES OFFICE AND THE GENEVA OFFICE WERE RENAMED AS CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES.
- ALSO, IN 1994, THE BISHOP AND THE BOARD CREATED PROVIDENCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. IN ITS 18 YEAR HISTORY, IT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER \$150 MILLION IN DEVELOPMENT OF SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, AND NOW MANAGES SUCH HOUSING FOR OVER 1000 HOUSEHOLDS. (AN

INTERESTING NOTE: A MAJOR PRIORITY OF THE STATE CATHOLIC BISHOPS AT THE 1938 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WAS ADVOCATING FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING).

- AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTY SUBSIDIARY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1995 IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

THE CREATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY TURNED OUT TO BE A “TIPPING” POINT MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE. THIS AGENCY WAS ESTABLISHED NOT ONLY TO BETTER SERVE THOSE IN NEED IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY, BUT ALSO AS A POSSIBLE MODEL FOR FUTURE COUNTY OFFICE EXPANSION ON THE THEORY THAT LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL NOT ONLY WOULD LEAD TO MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE PROVISION, BUT ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MUCH GREATER REVENUE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC COMMUNITIES. THE SUCCESS OF THIS EFFORT LED TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WHICH I WILL DESCRIBE IN A MINUTE

- KINSHIP YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, ESTABLISHED BY “SECULAR” MISSIONARY FATHER TIM WEIDER IN THE 1960’S, WHICH HAD THEN BEEN SPUN OFF, WAS REINTEGRATED INTO DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN 2006, AND BECAME A PART OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF STEUBEN COUNTY ON JANUARY 1, 2012.
- A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS THE TRANSFORMATION IN 2003 OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE SOUTHERN TIER INTO FOUR NEW ENTITIES:
 - CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CHEMUNG/SCHUYLER COUNTIES

- CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF STEUBEN COUNTY
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF TOMPKINS/TIOGA COUNTIES
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER
- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF WAYNE COUNTY IN 2004
- FINALLY, IN AN ERA OF EVER DECLINING RESOURCES FOR HUMAN SERVICES, MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN OVER THE LAST DECADE IN ACHIEVING ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY IN PROVISION OF CENTRALIZED OR BACK OFFICE SERVICES.

SO, GIVEN ALL THIS, WHERE ARE WE NOW?

TAKEN TOGETHER, OUR AGENCIES (9 SUBSIDIARIES AND 2 AFFILIATES) HAVE PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN EACH OF THE 12 COUNTIES IN THE DIOCESE. WE TOUCH THE LIVES OF 250,000 PEOPLE ANNUALLY, 150,000 THROUGH SOUP KITCHENS AND FOOD PANTRIES SUPPORTED BY THE FOOD BANK AND 100,000 IN OUR GEOGRAPHICALLY-BASED SERVICES. THIS BROAD RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDE EMERGENCY SERVICES, FAMILY SERVICES, RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND SERVICES TO SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS. WE EMPLOY ALMOST EXACTLY 1000 INDIVIDUALS AND UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF 5000 VOLUNTEERS. OUR BUDGET FOR 2012 IS \$63 MILLION, (A FAR CRY FROM \$1000 IN WIDOW'S RENT AND 1600 QUARTS OF MILK A CENTURY AGO).

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY – DIOCESAN PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY HAS CONTINUED TO BE A PRIORITY FOR THE DIOCESE AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES DURING THESE LAST THIRTY YEARS.

OF MANY DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES IN THE 1980'S, I CALL ATTENTION TO TWO. THE FIRST IS THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AGAINST RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEATH PENALTY. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEW YORK STATE LED ADVOCACY TO PREVENT THE ANNUAL EFFORT TO OVER-RIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. IT IS INTERESTING THAT A KEY VOTE THAT WE SWAYED WAS THAT OF ASSEMBLYMAN GARY PROUD FROM ROCHESTER. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE WORDS OF ALBANY BISHOP HOWARD HUBBARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND AN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE ON THIS ISSUE: "I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO LOOK BACK 50 YEARS FROM NOW AND ASK WHERE WAS THE VOICE OF THE CHURCH ON THIS ISSUE, AS SOME NOW DO FOR THE HOLOCAUST."

THE SECOND IN THE COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP ROLE PLAYED BY BISHOP CLARK IN THE WAKE OF THE 1983 BISHOPS' PEACE PASTORAL. ENCOURAGED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEADERSHIP, HE LED A RALLY ON OCTOBER 22, 1983 AT SAMPSON STATE PARK TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT THE SENECA ARMY DEPOT. THIS OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT A POPULAR ACTIVITY WITH MANY CATHOLICS, BUT IN MY MIND WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER IN ADVOCATING OUR PRINCIPLES.

IN 1992, IN ORDER TO:

- HEIGHTEN AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY
- EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH ADVOCACY IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE DIOCESAN CHURCH, NOT JUST CATHOLIC CHARITIES

- INTEGRATE EFFORTS AT SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY WITH LIFE ISSUES ADVOCACY
- PRIORITIZE LOCAL DIOCESAN EFFORTS,

THE BISHOP ESTABLISHED THE DIOCESAN PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE. THIS BODY, COMPRISED OF 20 REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT CONSTITUENCIES AROUND THE DIOCESE, HAS BEEN ABLY CHAIRED FIRST BY FATHER MIKE BAUSCH THEN BY FATHER BRIAN COOL.

THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE, OF COURSE, SUPPORTS AND FOCUSES ON APPROPRIATE ISSUES EMANATING FROM THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS, CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA, AND THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE. IT WORKS NOT ONLY TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES AND ADVOCATE FOR THEM, BUT ALSO TO EDUCATE AND ENGAGE PARISHIONERS (THE PEOPLE IN THE PEWS) IN SUCH ADVOCACY. TO THAT END, THE COMMITTEE HAS ESTABLISHED THE PRACTICE OF ANNUALLY PUBLISHING A DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS TWO “EDUCATION” ISSUES AND ONE “ADVOCACY” ISSUE, FOR WHICH PARISHIONERS, AFTER A SEVERAL MONTH EDUCATION PROCESS ARE ASKED TO SIGN PETITIONS IN PARISHES THE SECOND WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY. GENERALLY THEY ARE BOTH “LIFE ISSUES” AND “SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES”. THEY ARE USUALLY STATE ISSUES, BUT OCCASIONALLY ARE FEDERAL ISSUES. (PARENTHETICALLY, I NOTE THAT CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THE DIOCESE HAS WORKED CLOSELY IN THIS TIME WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA, HOSTING THE 1999 CCUSA NATIONAL MEETING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE POVERTY.) FOR THE ADVOCACY ISSUE, WE AVERAGE 10,000 SIGNATURES FROM 75 PARISHES. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS WORK, FOR THE 2013

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, THE ADVOCACY ISSUE WILL BE ON CHILDRENS' POVERTY AND THE EDUCATION ISSUES ARE "FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP, FOCUSED ON UP UNTIL THE ELECTION, AND THEN FOR THE SPRING, ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE JOHN'S ENCYCLICAL PACEM IN TERRIS AND THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE US BISHOPS' PEACE PASTORAL, PEACE-MAKING IN THE LIGHT OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES SUCH AS DRONE WARFARE. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER PRIORITIES OVER THE YEARS CONSULT MY BOOK SPIRIT ALIVE!.

CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IS BUT ONE ACTIVITY IN WHICH THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE ENGAGES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY. ANNUALLY, THE COMMITTEE ALSO:

- SPONSORS A BISHOP'S LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON FOR THE 16 LEGISLATORS WHO REPRESENT OUR DIOCESE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JANUARY
- PARTICIPATES IN THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE MARCH LOBBY DAY.
- ORGANIZES INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS IN THE SUMMER
- AND HAS A "RAPID RESPONSE" MECHANISM TO RESPOND TO EMERGING ISSUES NEEDING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

CONCLUSION

I CONCLUDE WITH TWO ANECDOTES WHICH REFLECT ON OUR WORK:

ON MARCH 20TH THIS YEAR, BISHOP HUBBARD STATED IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT OUR CATHOLIC CHARITIES CONVENING HONORING BISHOP CLARK ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS A PRIEST AND HIS 33 YEARS SERVICE TO THE

DIOCESE: “YOUR DIOCESE HAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK OF ANY I HAVE EXPERIENCED IN MY 35 YEARS AS BISHOP”.

THIS PAST WINTER, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY ONE THURSDAY WHEN I WAS AT OUR LIVINGSTON COUNTY OFFICE TO WATCH STAFF RESPOND TO A MAN WHO HAD COME IN FOR HELP. IT WAS BREAD DAY, AND HE ASKED HALTINGLY IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE TWO LOAVES BECAUSE IT WAS HIS SON’S 7TH BIRTHDAY AND HE HAD NO PRESENT. STAFF TOOK HIM UPSTAIRS, AND I SAW HIM IN TEARS AS HE LEFT NOT ONLY WITH TWO LOAVES OF BREAD BUT ALSO WITH A HAT AND MITTENS FOR HIS SON. MAYBE WE HAVEN’T CHANGED SO MUCH FROM GIVING OUT QUARTS OF MILK ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.