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All baptized Christians are called to minister to the poor and marginalized—to heal and challenge as Jesus did—to act out their faith in works of charity and peace.

The purpose of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, Inc. is to advance this social ministry responsibility of the Church. Through a broad range of advocacy and direct services, Catholic Charities works:

- To empower persons to their full potential;
- To provide direct services where needs are unmet or where there is specific need for a service based on Catholic social teaching;
- To eliminate the causes of social injustice;
- To assist Catholic faith communities in developing parish-based social ministry programs.

Rooted in Scripture and Tradition which emphasizes the dignity of every human person, especially the poorest among us, Catholic Charities participates in humanizing the social order through education, advocacy and the provision of human care services.

Mission Statement
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester

Flowing from the principles of the Vatican Council, particularly those of empowering lay leadership and subsidiarity, the Diocesan Board of Catholic Charities has created four regional or subsidiary agencies and delegated authority for their management to local Boards of Directors.

Our current Catholic Family Center agency represents a consolidation of the original Catholic Family Center (established in 1917), the Catholic Youth Organization, and what was known as the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry.

Recognizing that our 12 county diocese is diverse demographically and socio-economically, our Bishop and Board of Directors have, over the last fifteen years, moved to put in place better mechanisms to serve the Finger Lakes region and the Southern Tier of the Diocese. Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier was established in 1980, and Finger Lakes Social Ministry in 1982. During 1994, the Diocesan Board

established the Catholic Charities Livingston County Steering Committee to explore the possibility of creating a permanent Livingston County subsidiary.

Responding to a request to the diocese to serve persons who are mentally retarded, the Bishop and Catholic Charities established in 1980 a small community residence program. Over the years this program has grown. In 1987, services to persons with AIDS were also established. In 1992, Catholic Charities Community & Residential Services was formally created as a subsidiary of Catholic Charities with its own Board, to provide these specialized services throughout all 12 counties of the diocese.

The Diocesan office continues to encourage collaboration among our agencies, parishes, Catholic health care agencies and the Diocese itself. The Diocesan office also has responsibility for development of new program/agency initiatives, beyond individual agency purview.

Catholic Charities works with parishes in carrying out the social ministry of the church.

Looking to the future, we affirm our commitment to the values and priorities of the Diocesan Synod, and welcome the opportunity to resource parishes and the diocese in carrying out pastoral implementation plans.

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
Catholic Charities



1994 Annual Report

PAID ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT