



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This letter brings with it my sincere hope that your Christmas and New Year's Holidays were filled with many blessings and that God continues to share his love and graces with you throughout the coming year.

We wish to thank you for your continued leadership support of your Parish and the Catholic Ministries Appeal. We are so deeply grateful for the extraordinary sacrifices that you have made to support the work of our church on Long Island. Your generosity and commitment to our faith, and community fills me with confidence that many wonderful things will continue to take place in our Diocese.

Last year because of your support we not only were able to continue to bring religious education to more than 100,000 students in public schools, but we were also able to initiate a special training program for Catechists so they can assist the ever-growing number of autistic children in our community. We were proud to ordain five priests for the Diocese of Rockville Centre and continue to support the men in our Diaconate program, all of which you help make possible.

Last year at secular college campuses across our Island more than 3,500 students a month participated in Mass and other faith-based activities. At one of the campuses students didn't have a sacred place to pray so they worked together with our Office of Campus Ministry to convert a storage closet into a chapel. These young adults are growing in their faith and you are helping them to do that.

Please know how grateful I am for your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, and in all humbleness on behalf of all who would benefit from your kindness, I am asking you to make a gift to the 2016 Catholic Ministries Appeal and, so that together as one faith family, we can continue to meet the needs of our community.

With gratitude and prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Rockville Centre

**To learn more about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, see our video at [www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org](http://www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org)**