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Take Care,

Vincent W. Colonno
Ginny O’Brien has always been interested in Social Justice. Her passion for helping the communities in which she has lived can be seen through her 25 years in public office, her work for Albany County Social Services, her involvement with the Parish Council and Social Justice Committee at her parish (St. Michael’s in Troy), and her many years of sitting on local boards. Mike, her husband of 49 years has been by her side through it all.

Children have always been a special part of Ginny’s life. In addition to her own children, now grown, Ginny worked for Catholic Charities’ Seton Daycare years ago. That’s where she met Sisters Serena and Maureen, whom she deeply respected. While President of Catholic Charities’ Caregiver & Support Services Board, Ginny learned the inner workings of a local board. Ginny has felt her newest role as Trustee has been the most eye opening and touching experience for her. The board’s visits to the programs of local agencies allow her to witness first hand Caring Beyond Belief. “It is not just a slogan!” she is quick to remark.

While Ginny believes the 100th Anniversary speaks to the stability and reputation Catholic Charities has in the community, she wishes there would be no need for CC in the future. But as long as we are here, she is confident the hard working and dedicated staff and inspiring commitment of the board will continue to keep the organization strong and successful in serving the most vulnerable among us.

As Catholic Charities celebrates its 100th anniversary, The Roarke Center in Troy marks its own milestone of 20 years of service. The Center was established in 1997 by the Daughters of Charity, providing emergency assistance to individuals facing financial hardships. In 2008, it became a part of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, and continues to offer emergency assistance today. The Roarke Center has grown over the past two decades, now offering a food pantry, a reentry program for those leaving incarceration, and a creative arts program. The Center’s goal is to improve the quality of life of all its members through social support and services.

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, The Roarke Center hosted an open house in May. The day included tours of the Center and remarks from community supporters. Sister Loretta Hoag and Sister Marian Hamwey, Daughters of Charity and long-time employees at the Center, were both recognized for their dedication to Roarke and its mission. The day highlighted the achievements of the Roarke Center over the past two decades, as well as its continuing work in Rensselaer County.

100 YEARS: A TIMELINE

Catholic Charities becomes the name of the growing agency. Sunnyside Child Development Center opens.

Camp Scully opens.

Prior to 1917, Seton Catholic Family and Community Services and the Catholic AID Association of Albany served the area.

Bishop Thomas Cusack establishes Catholic Charities, including Masterson Child Development Center and Albany Catholic Family and Community Services.

Camp Tekakwitha is envisioned.

1917

1920

1925

In response to needs, Catholic Charities opens.

During the next 19 years, Catholic Charities works through the difficult period of the Depression and WWII.
The Ladies of Charity Celebrate 400 Years of Service

By Katie Hubly

The Ladies of Charity in Albany are not only one of this year’s honorees at the annual Night at the Museum, they are also celebrating their 400th anniversary. Founded in 1617 by St. Vincent de Paul, the Ladies of Charity are a volunteer organization of lay members dedicated to providing service to the poor. They are one of the oldest, continuously functioning organizations of their kind. Since being founded in Albany in 1970, they have proven to be a vibrant presence throughout the Capital Region.

The services provided by the Ladies are extensive. When they are not distributing diapers, clothing and formula for families at Mary’s Corner, they can be found assisting the homeless at the Sister Maureen Joyce Center, with the retired Daughters of Charity creating care packages for service members and children fighting cancer, or distributing hundreds of coats during their annual Coats for the Community drive. Even when determining how to celebrate their anniversary, the Ladies of Charity focused on others, organizing an offertory collection to benefit the Daughters of Charity Border Ministries.

Their mission attracts growth. “When you have that spirit of service you naturally share it. Growth happens organically — we simply invite others to share in our work,” said Kim Witko Seitz, president of the Albany Association. Having attracted twenty-two new members just this year, it is clear that the work of the Ladies of Charity continues to inspire others to pursue a life of service to the poor in the Capital Region.

As a result of, “the war on poverty,” government and not-for-profit organizations come together to respond to changing human needs.

1939 1950
Catholic Charities opens in Troy. First office outside of Albany.

1949 1965
Arbor House opens
Seton Catholic Family and Community Services joins Catholic Charities.

Sister Serena Branson, the first woman in the United States to head a Catholic Charities agency, expands services throughout the Diocese.

1971 1972
Community Maternity Services opens.

1974 1976 1977
Saratoga County Agency opens.
St. Charles Lwanga Center and United Tenants of Albany open.

Mercy House, shelter for women and children opens.
Columbia, Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie County Agencies open.

Developmental Disabilities Services opens.

In keeping with the centennial celebrations of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany this year, we are proud to announce the establishment of our 1917 Legacy Society.

The 1917 Legacy Society has been created to celebrate and thank those individuals who have chosen to make a charitable gift to Catholic Charities in a lasting way. We gratefully recognize those who have or wish to make a planned, future gift to ensure the continuation of our mission. If you have remembered Catholic Charities in your will and trusts, I invite you to contact me so we may recognize you and thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to explore how you can give to others in a lasting way, I invite you to explore these giving options:

**Bequest or Estate Gifts**

In writing a will or living trust, you may designate a portion of your estate to benefit Catholic Charities.
A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and Catholic Charities. Transfer securities or real property in exchange for a partial tax deduction and receive a lifetime stream of annual income from Catholic Charities. Upon your death, the remaining principal is available to support Catholic Charities.

“Including Catholic Charities in my will is a way for me to ensure that I can help others in their time of need and make a difference to the poor and vulnerable in our Diocese – so low-income children can attend summer camp, more seniors can benefit from our transportation programs, and more families can be served from our food pantries.”

– Mary T., Saratoga

To learn more about planned giving contact Kate Qualters at 518-453-6677 kate.qualters@rcda.org

### Centennial Medallion

The Centennial Medallion, a symbol, was chosen to celebrate Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany’s one hundredth Anniversary. How does an organization that has been blessed beyond measure – with tens of thousands of people over one hundred years – acknowledge those contributions? It is an honor for Catholic Charities to offer a small gesture of gratitude for the commitment, generosity and passion shared throughout these decades of service.

Criteria were established and nomination forms were widely distributed to staff, volunteers and the Board of Trustees. Present staff members were not eligible for this honor but former staff, community partners, committee members, contributors, and Board members were considered. The committee had a huge challenge in making the final determination as the gifts shared and the blessings received have been countless.

The Centennial Medallions are being given throughout the 14 counties of the Catholic Charities system at events that our agencies sponsor. On the actual anniversary of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, May 25, a number of Medallions were given at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. We bestow these Medallions with deep gratitude and humility knowing that everyone nominated (and hundreds more) uphold, cherish, share and live the mission of Catholic Charities in our world today!

### 100 Years: A Timeline

1917 Camp Tekakwitha is envisioned.

1919 Seton Catholic Family and Community Services joins Catholic Charities.

1926 The newest members of the Ladies of Charity in Albany.

1932 Catholic Charities becomes the name of its predecessor agencies.

1934 Sisters and lay members work as a team.

1937 The newest members of the Ladies of Charity in Albany.

1940 Sisters are dedicated to the care of the poor.

1943 Sisters and lay members work as a team.

1948 The newest members of the Ladies of Charity in Albany.

1953 Sisters are dedicated to the care of the poor.

1957 The newest members of the Ladies of Charity in Albany.

1965 Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Catholic Charities, in partnership with Community Hospice, open Mary’s Haven.

1966 Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany is established.

1969 Catholic Charities merges with its predecessors.

1971 Tenants of Albany open.

1976 Catholic Charities celebrates 400th anniversary. Founded in 1617.

1977 Catholic Charities celebrates 400th anniversary. Founded in 1617.

1980 Schoharie County Agencies open.

1982 Catholic Charities Caregivers Program opens.

1985 Hispanic Outreach Services opens.

1988 Catholic Charities Housing opens.

1990 Catholic Charities Developmental Disabilities Services opens.

1993 Columbia and Greene merge.

1996 Fulton and Montgomery merge.


2003 Senior and Caregivers Agencies merge.

2006 Catskill office opens for Columbia and Greene.

2009 Sidney Office opens for Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie.

2013 Catholic Charities Senior Services opens.

2015 AIDS Services is renamed Care Coordination Services.

2017 Catholic Charities celebrates 100 years of “Caring Beyond Belief” in the Albany Diocese.

Sister Maureen Joyce moves the system to focus on charity and justice.

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A Word From the CEO...
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CEO