



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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## **Diocese and Catholic Charities announce restructuring to strengthen outreach**

Since the 1990s, the Diocese of Erie and the separately incorporated Catholic Charities, Inc. have collaboratively supported the ministry of charity and social justice in northwest Pennsylvania. They are now jointly announcing a restructuring plan in support of those same ministries.

Currently, the diocese supports its own Catholic Charities department which includes two offices: the Mission Office and the Social Justice and Life Office. The diocesan department also provides support to a network of seven Catholic Charities agencies based in various locations throughout northwest Pennsylvania. At the same time, Catholic Charities, Inc. has focused on fundraising and the distribution of grants that financially support the network agencies. Recently, Catholic Charities, Inc. has begun to expand its assistance beyond the network.

In the restructuring plan, the diocesan Catholic Charities department will merge into Catholic Charities, Inc. When that happens, the Social Justice and Life Office will become part of Catholic Charities, Inc. while the Mission Office will remain with the diocese and report directly to the vicar general.

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The goal of the restructuring is to strengthen the ministry of charity and justice within the diocese and to provide the best possible assistance to the network agencies, to other eligible entities, and to those burdened by poverty, those living on the margins and those who are the most vulnerable among us.

“This is something we’ve been working toward for quite a while,” said the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie. “Charity and justice complement each other well. The organizations involved are well-positioned to expand their vision and outreach together.”

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Catholic Charities, Inc., Ali Samuels, board chair, noted: “We are excited to bring together the remarkable work that is being done by the department of Catholic Charities and Catholic Charities, Inc. This restructuring will allow us to better respond to the ever-changing and growing needs of vulnerable persons who are marginalized, disenfranchised or living in poverty in the diocesan community as we work toward systemic change.”

The move comes with the full support of Ann Badach who is retiring June 10 after 17 years of service for the diocese, the last seven as executive director of both the diocesan Catholic Charities department and Catholic Charities, Inc. Erin Tubbs, who has served as executive assistant of that department for eight years, will become interim executive director and serve as such until Catholic Charities, Inc. names a new executive director and the restructuring plan is implemented.

“This is a mission-driven restructuring,” Bishop Persico said. “It will allow Catholic Charities to increase its vision, its footprint and its positive impact upon the people of the 13 counties of northwest Pennsylvania.”

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