



**Office of Communications**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND NAMES NEW  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY – February 7, 2023** – Catholic Charities of Long Island



([www.catholiccharities.cc](http://www.catholiccharities.cc)) has named Michael Smith as its new Chief Executive Officer. Smith will assume his position on February 13, 2023.

“We warmly welcome Mike to Catholic Charities of Long Island,” said Thomas Alexanderson, Chair, Board of Trustees, Catholic Charities of Long Island.

“We look forward to his leadership as we continue to enhance the services which CCLI provides to the forgotten and marginalized here on Long Island.”

Smith most recently served as Chief Operating Officer for Neighborhood Defender Service, Inc.

where he managed all fiscal activity for the multi-region public defender organization.

“I am grateful to Tom Alexanderson and the search committee for their hard work and commitment to finding the right person to lead Catholic Charities of Long Island,” said Bishop John Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre. Mr. Smith’s blend of mission-driven, nonprofit leadership expertise and legal experience is critical for helping ensure that CCLI



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is positioned to continue to carry out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy to a growing population in need on Long Island.”

“As a native of Long Island, I am thrilled and honored to be joining Catholic Charities of Long Island as Chief Executive Officer,” said Smith. “I believe in bringing an organization to life by activating values and engaging with every individual on the team to understand and drive purpose. I am excited to promote the work of CCLI and to provide mission-driven leadership.”

Smith is originally from Rockville Centre, N.Y. He is a graduate of Chaminade High School, Mineola, N.Y. He then earned his BA in Political Science from Colgate University and his J.D. from the University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac University School of Law). Smith comes to Catholic Charities of Long Island with 26 years of experience in non-profit management and a career in services of community and the values of the Catholic faith.

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**About the Diocese of Rockville Centre**

The Diocese of Rockville Centre ([www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org)) was formed in 1957 and covers 1,198 square miles in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese serves approximately 1.4 million baptized Catholics\* (total population in both counties is approximately 2.9 million). There are 132 parishes plus one campus parish in 115 towns. The diocese is blessed with 336 total priests, 703 religious women, 61 Brothers and 275 permanent deacons. In 2020, 13,526 baptisms, 11,583 confirmations, 11,760 First Holy Communions and 2,169 Catholic marriages took place in the diocese. There are 11,077 students in Catholic elementary schools; 10,407 students in Catholic high schools and 3,409 students in higher institutions. There are 35 Catholic elementary schools (31 parish or regional and four private), 9 high schools (2 diocesan, 2 parish and 5 private) and one Catholic college (Molloy College, Rockville Centre) in the diocese. In 2020, there were 66,578 children in parish Faith Formation programs. In 2020, Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 9,439 deceased Catholics at 4 diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. Catholic Health is an integrated system encompassing some of the region’s finest health and human service agencies. The health system has 17,000 employees, six acute care hospitals, three nursing homes, a home health service, hospice and a network of physician practices. Catholic Charities of Long Island shares the love of Jesus by offering dignified and compassionate care to poor and over 1.3 million, face-to-face services to an average of 58,000 neighbors from 53 sites in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese maintains Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media platforms. Catholic Faith Network, broadcasts 24/7/365 to millions of homes; the weekly DRVC E-newsletter is emailed to more than 10,000 recipients. The diocesan website [drvc.org](http://drvc.org) averages approximately 18,000 unique visitors each month.

\*As of 2020