



October 1, 2018

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Dear Faithful Donor:

In the face of the many painful stories that have been reported over the last several weeks, especially those in our own Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens, we personally wish to share with you the perspectives of the Board of Directors and Staff of Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens.

As your Catholic community foundation, we are more than an organization tasked with providing financial support and counsel to assist critical programs that advance the mission of the Church – we are members of the community. Many of us are current parishioners, volunteers for liturgy, and parents of children in our academies and religious education programs. We are deeply saddened to read through the stories of abuse and to know that many have seen their lives ruined by these horrific actions.

We are also aware that, because of these events, many of you have expressed concern regarding the use of your donations. As an organization governed by a board with fiduciary responsibility, we take seriously our responsibility to properly steward and direct the donations given to us in support of the Church's mission in Brooklyn and Queens. In carrying this out, it is important to note:

- **Donated monies are restricted in all cases where a donor specifically states his or her intent or responds to marketing materials from the Annual Catholic Appeal, Generations of Faith or other programs highlighting specific case components.**
- **An outside CPA firm conducts a yearly certified audit or all organization procedures, transactions and financial reporting.**
- Independent decision-making and oversight on distributing donations to programs is the sole responsibility of the Board of Directors of Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens. The Foundation has in place established policies and guidelines, which include strict reporting and documentation requirements to ensure that each disbursement is made in accordance with donor designated purposes and/or donor restrictions. We continuously review such policies and guidelines and make changes to strengthen and enhance the operating effectiveness of our procedures to ensure that donated funds are disbursed as intended by our donors, allowing for the greatest impact of your gift.

- **Catholic Foundation is intent on continuing our practice of being fully transparent in the reporting of our financial activity.**
- The ministries supported by the various fundraising programs managed by Catholic Foundation directly and immediately benefit the faithful communities of our 186 parishes in Brooklyn and Queens. For example, from the Generations of Faith capital campaign, over \$21 million has already been disbursed back to parishes, funding hundreds of capital projects directed by the local parish. Funding to the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative has allowed over 90 parishes to staff a paid youth minister.

What's most significant for us to express is that the programs and ministries advancing the good works of the Catholic Church in Brooklyn and Queens would not be possible without your continued support. Your commitment to the Church's mission to serve its aged, poor, hungry and other underserved members of the faithful community is making a difference in so many lives. Many conclude that the most effective steps an organization such as ours can take is to emphasize the importance of these programs so that the life of the Church continues despite these challenges. Your financial sacrifice provides the resources necessary to evangelize, form and pass along our faith, educate our youth and encourage vocations. You are an integral component of the life of the Catholic Church in Brooklyn and Queens.

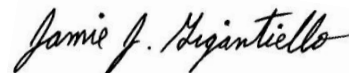
We thank you for being a generous donor to Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens, Generations of Faith, Annual Catholic Appeal, Futures in Education and other diocesan and parish programs. We ask you to join us in praying for our Church and its members during this fragile period, especially for the victims of abuse, and we encourage you to reflect upon the importance of the work *you* do and the sacrifices *you* make to keep the faith and works of our Catholic community alive in Brooklyn and Queens.

Please do not hesitate to call our offices with any questions you may have. We will be happy to listen and assist.

In Christ's Peace,



Joseph E. Geoghan
Chairman, Board of Directors



Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello
Vicar for Development