



Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

– 1 John 4:11-12

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

After losing her job when businesses began to lock down, Christina's pile of unpaid bills was growing. She was anxious about how she would pay them when she received an email from her child's principal at PS 15. Christina read the email over and over in disbelief - the parishioners at Holy Apostles in Brooklyn – people she had never met - had paid her rent and electric bills.

She wrote to the principal, "I have never felt so loved, so heard, so cared for."

This past year, the COVID-19 pandemic tested our faith in many ways, but it also presented us with abundant opportunities to tangibly demonstrate God's love.

When called by the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of your brothers and sisters, you stepped forward to bring the compassionate love of Christ to those in need. Your bishops are heartened and grateful that you and your fellow parishioners chose to be the visible Body of Christ when faced with fear of the unknown.

Christina's story is but one illustrating the impact of Episcopal Ministries this year. From Brooklyn to Astoria, Huntington to Greenport, your generosity allowed us to resource and amplify parish ministries meeting the needs of the most vulnerable at the height of the pandemic. I am calling on you to continue this prayerful generosity by contributing to Episcopal Ministries' Annual Appeal.

This past year allowed you to see the face of Christ in those around you. This is what we are called to do as Christians: to give freely of what we have in the service of our brothers and sisters in need. These acts of love are equally vital for those who give and for those who receive.

I invite you to join me in this act of love for our neighbors by making a gift to Episcopal Ministries to help reach our goal of \$150,000 by May 23. With your support, ministries across our Diocese will continue to provide a lifeline to our most vulnerable neighbors. You may use the enclosed envelope, or visit our website, episcopalministries.org, to make a contribution.

I pray that you can find your way to join me in this great mission.

With my deepest thanks, warmest regards, and heartfelt blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence C. Provenzano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano
Bishop of Long Island

Episcopal Ministries of Long Island is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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