



OFFICE of the BISHOP

BISHOP EDWARD B. SCHARFENBERGER

August 10, 2021
Feast Day of Saint Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to live in these challenging and uncertain times, we can all feel a bit weary. At the same time, we can be absolutely confident that our Faithful God continues to reach out to us in love with his gifts of strength and hope. These are not gifts for ourselves alone. These are gifts that must be shared. More than ever, I believe God is calling each and every one of us – missionary disciples of Jesus Christ - to be instruments of his peace and witnesses to his abiding love!

The time seems opportune, then, to gather together as a diocesan community – to pray, to celebrate, and to recommit ourselves to being the missionary disciples God so urgently needs us to be! Therefore, I invite you to a **Diocesan Day of Prayer and Celebration: *Come Holy Spirit! Renew Our Strength, Reaffirm Our Hope!*** on Saturday, September 25th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park.

With the encouragement of Father Bob Longobucco, Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia, our diocesan Office of Lay Ministry and Parish Faith Formation is planning a wonderfully festive day for all of you. It will begin with a special prayer for God's strength, and an uplifting message from Father Longobucco. From this morning prayer, the day will continue with time to reflect more deeply on the gift of God's hope, led by Bob McCarty, well-known national presenter and former director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Finally, the day will conclude with a Holy Hour and a recommitment to "go announce the Gospel of the Lord!"

I hope, and I especially pray, that many of you will set aside September 25th for what will be, I am sure, a grace-filled experience. Jesus needs you! We need Jesus, and one another!

A flier with further information and a registration link can be found with the materials accompanying this letter. (Please note: we will follow whatever health and safety protocols that may be required at that time.)

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany

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