



CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Honoring a career spent selflessly serving to those less fortunate

(Baltimore, November 3, 2020) - After humbly and selflessly serving the Baltimore community for decades, a long-time Catholic Charities employee will be honored with one of the organization's most cherished awards.

Mary Anne O'Donnell, who recently retired as Catholic Charities' assistant director and chief administrative officer, will receive the Msgr. Arthur F. Valenzano Joyful Servant Award during the organization's week-long virtual celebration of service, called A Movement to Serve.

Commissioned to recognize a joyful life and spirit in service, the award honors the spirit of the late rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who served on the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees until his passing in 2015.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this award," said O'Donnell. "To be recognized by an award in honor of Msgr. Arthur F. Valenzano, who lived the gospel by showing us kindness, love, humility and the importance of relationships, and joining the list of previous honorees such as Fr. Bill Waters and Sr. Helen Amos is humbling."

O'Donnell retired from her full-time position in September. Prior to the six years she spent in her recent administrative role, O'Donnell has worked tirelessly for the people of Maryland, beginning as director of Sarah's House, then director of the organization's Community Services division. She has also initiated, overseen and implemented countless efforts and outreaches.

"I am proud to accept this award on behalf of the many people who have touched my life and allowed my faith to grow and have taught me about unconditional love," said

O'Donnell. "Praise Jesus that Msgr. Art's legacy and inspiration will empower all of us to continue serving with love, joy and hope."

The week-long celebration will include two other distinctions for service.

The Anne Lindsey Otenasek Youth Service Award goes to **Vinay Khosla**. The Dulaney High School senior has organized members of the Dulaney Key Club to volunteer at Our Daily Bread Employment Center to serve meals. He has also volunteered at St. Vincent's Villa for the annual Season of Wonder, which includes wrapping presents and decorating various parts of the residential treatment center for children as young as 5 who have significant behavioral or emotional challenges. When the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the country, Khosla helped organize Baltimore County Mask Makers to provide masks at a time when there was a dire need. This award is in memory of Anne Lindsey Otenasek, who was an energetic teenaged Catholic Charities volunteer when she died in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. The youth service award in her name honors and perpetuates her spirit and personal commitment to helping others. It is given to a high school or college individual or group that shows outstanding volunteer commitment to Catholic Charities.

Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company Manager of Community Relations Carolyn Gutermuth will receive the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to an individual or group who exemplifies and significantly supports compassionate caregiving and service through personal commitment to Catholic Charities' work. Gutermuth personifies these qualities in her volunteer work at My Sister's Place Women's Center. For years, Gutermuth has served the women at the center through donation drives, personal gifts, financial support, committee service, and more. She has tirelessly encouraged her circle of professional and personal contacts to become donors and volunteers.

"It is my esteemed privilege to recognize Mary Anne, Carolyn and Vinay for their contributions to our mission," said Catholic Charities Executive Director Bill McCarthy. "When people like this offer their selfless acts of kindness, they are part of the reason our agency is able to continue to do the works in communities and make an impact throughout Maryland."

#AMovementToServe is a virtual week-long shared celebration recognizing those who serve and those who are served as individuals of value and dignity, with special thanks to those who support the organization's work. In addition to the above awardees, Catholic Charities will also honor five employees with its Mission in Action Award for extraordinary examples of commitment: Edwina Bell, director of nursing at St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation & Nursing Center; Joyce Brunson, housekeeper at St. Vincent's Villa; Johanna Miller, program supervisor at Villa Maria Community Resources Behavioral Health Clinics; Michika Karim, child care at Sarah's House; and Tamara Williams, case manager at My Sister's Place Women's Center.

The awardees will all be recognized in video as part of the week-long virtual #AMovementToServe event. The week will also feature podcast conversations with experts discussing senior care, homelessness & poverty prevention, workforce development, immigration, behavioral health, and intellectual & developmental disabilities. Find all content at catholiccharities-md.org and on the Catholic Charities Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn feeds.

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About Catholic Charities of Baltimore

Catholic Charities of Baltimore is Maryland's largest private provider of human services, with more than 80 programs in 200 locations to serve children and families experiencing homelessness and poverty, individuals with intellectual disabilities, immigrants and seniors without regard to religion, race or other circumstances.

www.catholiccharities-md.org.