



## DIOCESE OF PORTLAND OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 27, 2023

Dear Faithful Parishioner,

No doubt, many of you are aware that Maine is known as the “oldest” state in the nation, and why shouldn’t it be as I suspect most of us would like to live out our golden years in such a beautiful and safe place! But unfortunately, this distinction presents a challenge when our aging neighbors, who only wish to be able to stay in the comfort and security of their home, have no one to look after them helping to make that wish possible.

As Catholics, we are called to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities. Thankfully Catholic Charities Maine has a wonderful program, Independent Support Services, that has caring and skilled staff providing in-home services such as cooking, cleaning, and grocery shopping to help older adults age in place, with dignity.

**I bring this to your attention because the need for these services has reached a critical point, with more than 1,400 seniors waiting for help today all across Maine.**

Your dedication to serving seniors can make an enormous difference in as little as two hours a week. Your time will be compensated, and you can enjoy the flexibility of setting your own schedule while being a blessing to our older neighbors in need.

I encourage anyone who can, to consider prayerfully joining Catholic Charities in this vital ministry. Parish communication materials are available with more details and information on how to apply. And please continue to keep Maine’s older adults who are isolated and alone in your prayers.

With gratitude for your attention to this request, and an assurance of prayer, I am

Sincerely in the Lord Jesus, our Merciful Savior and Servant,

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Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, JCD  
Bishop of Portland