



DIocese of MANCHESTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MELANIE ENGLISH

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BISHOP LIBASCI APPOINTS CO-CHAIRS FOR FUND DRIVE

(**MANCHESTER, NH**) Bishop Peter A. Libasci has appointed Maria Ryan, Ph.D. and Ovide M. Lamontagne, Esq. as co-chairs of the 2016 campaign to support the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund. The campaign is the sole support for the Fund, which provides grants to non-profit organizations in New Hampshire that address basic human needs such as food, clothing, shelter, heating and medical assistance.

Noting that the Fund makes a difference in the lives of thousands of people, Bishop Libasci said, "A grant from the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund brings not only financial assistance but also hope to those who are struggling in our midst. As the Catholic Church we care for all those in need and I am grateful that Dr. Ryan and Attorney Lamontagne are willing to lead our effort."

Dr. Ryan is CEO of Cottage Hospital in Woodsville, NH. She was named in the Becker's Hospital Review list of "Top 50 Rural Hospital CEOs to Know" in the United States for three consecutive years. Amongst all hospitals, regardless of size, Dr. Ryan was recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as one of "300 Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know". Dr. Ryan currently serves as a Board of Trustee member for the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund, the North Country Health Consortium, the Foundation for Healthy Communities, and the New Hampshire Musculoskeletal Institute.

Attorney Ovide Lamontagne is a shareholder with the regional law firm of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer and Nelson, practicing out of the firm's Manchester office. From 2013 through 2015, Atty. Lamontagne served as general counsel for Americans United for Life in Washington, DC. From 1986 through 2013, he practiced business law with the firm of Devine, Millimet & Branch. During his private practice, he also served as legal counsel for the New Hampshire State Senate in 1991. In 1993, he was appointed by Governor Stephen Merrill as Chairman of the New Hampshire State Board of Education, where he served until 1996. He is a past Chair of the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund and co-chaired the campaign with his wife, Elizabeth, in 2007 and 2008.

Since 1985 over \$5.8 million has been raised to help support non-profit organizations. Each year the Bishop hosts a reception at Trudel House in Manchester for guests who have contributed to the campaign. Last year over 450 people attended the event and raised \$227,000.

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PHOTO CUTLINE: (L-R) Dr. Maria Ryan, Bishop Peter A. Libasci and Atty. Ovide M. Lamontagne meet to discuss the 2016 campaign to support the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund.

The Diocese of Manchester is the Roman Catholic Church in New Hampshire, serving the needs of more than 264,000 Catholics. For more information, please visit www.catholicnh.org.