



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2023

Dear National Assembly Participants,

On behalf of the Diocese of Buffalo and our more than 500,000 Catholic faithful in Western New York, I wholeheartedly welcome you to Buffalo and to your National Assembly. Your assembly theme, **Ladies of Charity: We Choose Love** was chosen to honor the 10 innocent souls who lost their lives, May 14, 2022, in a senseless racially motivated shooting in Buffalo.

Shortly after the tragedy, I communicated that in the midst of this horrific event we also were able to discern what is right and good among us. In that shared grief, with so many acts of consolation, care and concern for families and friends affected, we came together as a community to insist and declare that this is not who we are – that this event does not, and will not, define us and what Buffalo is all about.

The love that Jesus demonstrated in His time with us inspires us to show care and concern for those in need, and for those whose prospects are less and then take discernable action to alleviate their struggle. Such is the mission of the Ladies of Charity who seek every opportunity to make Christ present by serving the material and spiritual needs of the sick, the poor, and the marginalized of our society.

May our Lord bless your effort and may this assembly and the fellowship you experience nurture you as you impart the importance of service to others in your many charitable works throughout the United States.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo