



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
NEW YORK

“The bright dawn will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding hearts to the way of peace.”

Luke – 1: 78-79

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this Advent season, the simple yet eloquent words from the gospel according to Luke remind us that Christ continues to give light, not just on Christmas Day, but *each and every day*.

Here in the Diocese of New York, this light giving occurs daily through Episcopal Charities and the 90 wonderful parish-based programs that it helps to make possible. Housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, providing young people with skills and children with joy, Episcopal Charities’ programs now serve more than 300,000 people a year.

In the true spirit of outreach, all of this is offered in a thoroughly non-sectarian, non-discriminatory way that allows every participant to feel respected and embraced. **This sharing, *this light giving*, would simply not be possible without you and others who have a place in their hearts for neighbors in need.**

One of those neighbors is named Ruth, whose story comes to us through St. Mark’s Church in Mt. Kisco:

Tragic circumstances are what prompted Ruth to seek help. Two years ago, her younger son (and sole support) took a fatal fall at a construction site. This left 79-year-old Ruth alone to fend for herself and her older son, who is in his mid-forties and has a debilitating physical impairment. By this spring, her savings depleted and with little to spend on food, Ruth looked for help and found it through St. Mark’s, which serves the community as part of the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry.

By the next month, Ruth and her son were enrolled in the pantry’s home delivery service. It was the first time that she had ever sought emergency assistance of any kind, and it was difficult initially for her to acknowledge her position. When asked recently how she feels about receiving pantry services, Ruth replied with tearful gratitude, “How do you think I feel? We’re eating again!”

Work like this can only continue with the generous support of donors like you. During this season of sharing, I urge you to help provide light to those in darkness. ***Please join with me in offering vital support for Episcopal Charities by sending your gift today.*** Every dollar offered in response to this Advent Appeal—a full 100% of the check that you write—will go directly to fund and support programs in a nearby community.

Thank you for considering a generous gift, and please accept my sincere best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year!

Faithfully Yours,

THE RIGHT REVEREND MARK S. SISK
BISHOP OF NEW YORK