



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

October 2019

Dear pastors and friends,

We wanted to give you an update about the 74th Annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner which took place on Thursday, October 17 at the New York Hilton Midtown. As many of you know, the Al Smith Dinner is our signature fundraising event with proceeds going to help children and families in need throughout the archdiocese.

Now in its seventh decade, the Al Smith Dinner has become a cultural institution with civic and political leaders joining the ranks of its distinguished roster of guest speakers every year. The keynote speech is the centerpiece of the dinner and is known for its good humor and, of course, moments of thoughtful reflection. This year, we were proud to have General James N. Mattis USMC and 26th US Secretary of State deliver the keynote. He was joined by Mary Ann Tighe, CEO New York Tri-State Region, CBRE, who was the first female recipient of our prestigious Happy Warrior Award. Award-winning actor and comedian, Martin Short served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

We are proud of the patrimony of this enduring event, which was founded by our own Francis Cardinal Spellman in 1945. Each year since then, the Alfred E. Smith Dinner has expanded its reach; and, to this day, continues to attract a diverse and culturally influential crowd. This year we welcomed over 1,100 guests. This was the largest non-presidential year turn out in the dinner's history. As many of you already know, the Al Smith Dinner is the last public appearance the US presidential nominees make before election night.

The dinner demonstrates that the Catholic Church has a presence and a voice in American society; and, with this platform, we continue to renew our commitment to serving those children who are most in need. To learn more about the Al Smith Dinner, I invite you to visit <http://www.alsmithfoundation.org/the-dinner/>.

As always, I thank you for your service to the people of God here in the Archdiocese of New York. Please know that I am always available to you on my office line (646) 794-3393 or on my cell phone number (646) 251-0045, or by email at Bettina.Alonso@archny.org.

Sincerely yours,

Bettina Alonso
Executive Director

*Happy months of the
Holy Rosary!*