



MATTHEW ADAM PHOTOGRAPHY

HEALTHY SUPPORT—At the ArchCare Gala at Gotham Hall in Manhattan Oct. 27, are, from left: Francis Serbaroli, chairman, ArchCare board of trustees; Brendan Gallagher, president, New York, Gallagher; Cardinal Dolan; Scott LaRue, president and CEO of ArchCare; and Rosanna Scotto, Fox 5 New York. Gallagher and 10-time U.S. Olympic swimming medalist Katie Ledecky, who participated via video, were the honorees. The gala raised a record \$1.9 million for ArchCare, the archdiocesan health care system that cares daily for more than 9,000 seniors, the poor and persons with special needs.

Congress...

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the full flourishing of children and their families the highest goal, without anyone being excluded," it said.

The letter was sent to all members of Congress by Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; San Francisco Archbishop Salva-

tore J. Cordileone of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; and Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of the Committee on Migration.

Specifically, the bishops outlined 15 measures that they said they have long supported. They include passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, extending the child

tax credit, support for pregnancy resource centers, and ending marriage penalties in tax policy and social programs.

Other provisions the bishops urged Congress to act upon relate to paid family leave, child care and prekindergarten programs, nutrition, education, maternal and child health, housing, domestic violence and family relationships, adoption support,

environmental policies to ensure the health of women and children, and lifting limits on the eligibility of immigrant and mixed-status families in accessing government programs.

"There are serious cultural, social, economic and spiritual challenges that face women, families and children today. These are challenges that concern the common good," the bishops wrote.

They emphasized that children should not grow up in poverty and that parents should be able to take time away from work to care for them. They also said affordable health care for moms and children is necessary and that workplace policies should respect pregnant and nursing mothers.

The bishops are calling for affordable and high quality day care as well as an end to childhood hunger and homelessness and to toxic chemicals causing defects or cancer. They also said immigrant families need to be "treated in accord with their inviolable dignity."

"All of these goals require the cooperation of all and the exclusion of none," they added.

The letter said these goals cannot be achieved by individual efforts and will require collaborative work on the part of government leaders.

The bishops urged members of Congress "to find bipartisan solutions and ensure that these and other similar legislative proposals are given high priority."

"We hope with a particular concern that we all can agree on coming to the aid of pregnant and single parenting women in need, so that they will have the support, comfort and hope that they require to build their lives for the better and realize their aspirations," the bishops wrote.

The full text of the bishops' letter and legislative and policy recommendations is online at <https://bit.ly/3zmGpSh>. —CNS

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Editor in Chief
John Woods

Advertising/Business Manager
Matthew E. Schiller

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HOW TO REACH US

1011 First Avenue, Ste. 1721
New York, N.Y. 10022

Phone (212) 688-2399
Fax (212) 688-2642

Email cny@cny.org
On the web www.cny.org

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