

2024

DONOR IMPACT
REPORT

 OLV Charities

A Father Baker Legacy



Fostering Miracles

BECAUSE OF
you...



1.46 million

individuals throughout Western New York and Southern Ontario watched OLV's Weekly Masses on WGRZ-TV, a number that continues to grow.



37,450

donors from all over the world supported Father Baker's ministries through OLV Charities.



10,000-12,000

children, teens, seniors, and families were served through the various programs at OLV Human Services.



394 students from **44**

different school districts throughout the region attended OLVHS' seven unique educational settings.



The team at the OLVHS Counseling Clinic scheduled **6,618** appointments, helping **445** discover the mental health support they needed.



271

individuals with barriers to employment (mental and/or behavioral issues) were assisted via vocational training programs.



500

More than 500 young people experienced a summer of faith and fun at Camp Turner.



508

angels within OLV National Shrine & Basilica were adopted by donors throughout the U.S. as part of the campaign to "Save the Dome."



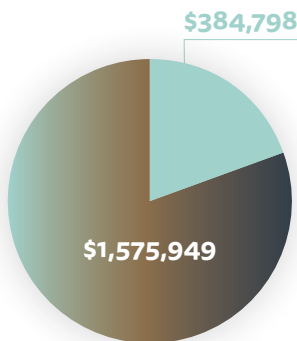
Donor-supported video projects were viewed **155,049 times** on our many social media channels.



OLV Charities provides much-needed financial and in-kind support (critical business operations such as information technology, facilities, and finance) to OLV Human Services and OLV National Shrine & Basilica. It also encourages devotion to Our Lady of Victory and supports Father Baker's Cause for Canonization.

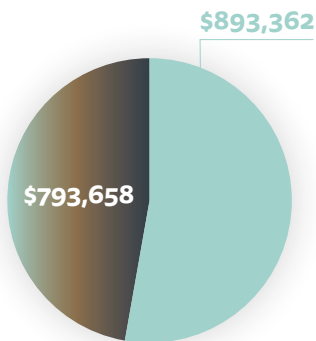
Funding Support

In-Kind Support



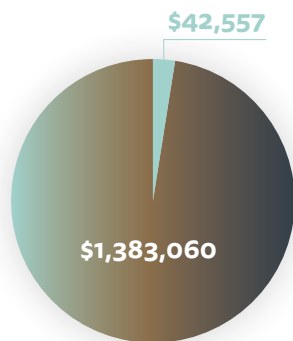
OLV Human Services

TOTAL SUPPORT
\$1,960,746*



OLV National Shrine & Basilica

TOTAL SUPPORT
\$1,687,020*



Religious Devotion & Education

TOTAL SUPPORT
\$1,425,617*

Grand Total: \$5,073,383

*These figures are based on interim financials available at the time of donor impact report compilation.



Dear friends,

This year featured an experience I will never forget. In early May, I was blessed to accompany a group of 32 of our donors and friends on a pilgrimage to France and Italy. It was not just any trip, though. This one marked the 150th anniversary of the life-changing pilgrimage that Nelson Baker, then a seminarian, took. It was through that experience, in a modest Parisian shrine, that the soon-to-be-priest discovered his deep love for the Blessed Mother and devoted his life's work to spreading veneration to her under the title of Our Lady of Victory.

As I stood there, in that same spot in that same church, no doubt surrounded by many of the same sights Nelson saw that day, I felt a sense of profound appreciation for the power of his faith as inspired by Our Lady of Victory. And when I glanced around at the other fellow pilgrims, some getting emotional, I also thought of you, our generous, compassionate benefactors.

Thanks to your unwavering support throughout 2024, we were able to make a profound difference in the lives of children, families, and wider community. Your kindness and commitment to our mission helps transform lives. It was you who:

- Provided comfort and hope to children, teens, and families experiencing profound trauma, allowing us to heal them physically, psychologically, and emotionally.
- Helped strengthen the future of our faith through ministries like Camp Turner and the Catholic Parenting Initiative. Both have the critical mission of helping young people rediscover their love of God.
- Ensured that the future of OLV National Shrine & Basilica continues to serve as a place of worship, a beacon of hope, and a place of pilgrimage for the next hundred years and more.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain inspired by your generosity and excited about the future we are building together. I humbly ask you to continue to stand with us as we work to make an even greater impact in the lives of children and families in our community. We cannot do it without you!

Sincerely, 

David J. Kersten
CEO, OLV Charities



This year, OLV Charities received a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to develop a much-needed program designed to help parents and caregivers pass their Catholic faith and values onto their children and grandchildren. The Catholic Parenting Initiative is a five-year effort that will engage with families of parishes throughout Western New York. For more, check out cpiwny.org.

Once again, Camp Turner enjoyed a near-record number of campers, drawing 500 young people for a faith-filled summer! The 2024 season was highlighted by a number of donor-funded projects such as a new horse corral, renovated dining hall exterior and the sponsorship of 40+ inner-city youths through the Police Athletic League.





The Evaluation & Treatment Center at OLV Human Services opened its doors in April of 2024 and provided more than 300 assessments for families with young children suspected of having a developmental disability. The program was created to help solve a regional crisis of 18-month-long waiting lists for such critical services.

In the fall, students at the specialized schools that make up Victory Education were given a reason to celebrate. When the Bulldogs took to a renovated basketball court with new uniforms (both donor-funded initiatives) for the first time, a new intramural sports program tipped off. Such character-building activities are critical to the growth of teens with severe emotional and behavioral issues.





SUPPORTING A PLACE OF PRAYER, WORSHIP, & BEAUTY



The dome of OLV National Shrine & Basilica took center stage in 2024 as scaffolding went up and the delicate work of removing and replacing all of its copper began. The much-needed, years-long project will continue throughout 2025.

The theme of the Shrine's Centennial Celebration is "All Are Welcome" and this was the case throughout the 2024 Advent season. All told, visitors and parishioners made nearly 30,000 visits to the Basilica during December to worship, celebrate and be inspired. In addition to traditional Masses and events, exhibits featuring the Shrine's stained-glass



windows and Nativity sets from around the world delighted attendees. This year's Kids Night Under the Dome event was even bigger than the last, with more than 640 children and parents enjoying a free evening of family fun and discovery.

Each year,

thousands of children, teens, adults, seniors, and families come to our campus for help and guidance. Our life-saving programs for those dealing with mental, physical, and behavioral difficulties provide healing and hope. And our wondrous Basilica offers spiritual sanctuary, quiet comfort, and inspiration to visitors.

*Without you, none
of it is possible.*

TO SUPPORT OUR
MINISTRIES AND
LEARN MORE ABOUT
VENERABLE NELSON
BAKER'S LEGACY, SCAN
THE CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE OR GO TO
OLVCharities.org



 **OLVCharities**

A Father Baker Legacy

780 Ridge Road | Lackawanna, NY 14218

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
OLV Charities