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**John Scibilia**  
**Executive Director, LDRNY**

September 2004

Dear Friends,

I pray this finds you at peace in the arms of a loving and merciful God. You are in my thoughts and prayers as the anniversary of Sept. 11 approaches in a city that continues to live that day in different ways in a context of threats, fear and concern. It is in our faith we find hope and in our continuing programs of assistance and healing we answer the Gospel call for those who need us the most.

I am hopeful you will take the time for yourself personally to commemorate Sept. 11 and its meaning in your life. Dr. Kenneth Doka in his book *Living with Grief – Coping with Public Tragedy* writes, “Anniversary rituals are very significant. As an anniversary approaches, there are seasonal and chronological cues. The days take on added significance as the anniversary approaches. It can educate the public about grief, reminding them that grief follows no timetable. Ritual validates that grief. There is also an intensification, strengthening unity within and between groups at this time. The anniversary also allows us to contemplate the enormity of the loss and acknowledge the individuals who died.”

We are deeply grateful for the support so many have provided to Lutheran Disaster Response of New York through prayers, gifts, cards and so many other ways. LDRNY is one of the very last agencies responding directly and in collaboration with our partner agencies to the needs which continue to exist post 9/11. It is the traditional role of faith-based disaster agencies to lead efforts in long-term recovery. It is Lutheran Disaster Response which stays for many years in the wake of natural and human caused disasters. While unmet needs related to 9/11 have fallen below the view of many, through LDRNY you will continue to be a helping hand and peaceful voice to the hidden victims.

LDRNY also serves as a welcoming place at Ground Zero for individuals and groups who make a pilgrimage to New York City seeking meaning to the events of September 11 in a faith filled way. I am hopeful you will consider visiting us personally.

Keep in your prayers all who are in pain and those who respond to that pain. I also hope you will consider a special gift for this ongoing ministry and work.

May the Lord give you peace in these days ahead.

Most Sincerely, in Christ,

*John J. Scibilia*  
*Executive Director*