



2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Begins

Through your generosity and that of many others who participated in last year's Capital Campaign, your gift to "We Stand With Christ" is already at work strengthening your parish and making it possible for the Diocese to plan for and innovate essential ministries and programs for generations.

Last year, the **Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)** was suspended in our parish because the Capital Campaign was underway and a portion of your gift was designated for the yearly needs covered by the ACA. **This year, we hope that you resume your participation in the Annual Catholic Appeal so that we may remain steadfast in our mission to renew the world through God's love one person at a time.**

Please know that The **Annual Catholic Appeal** and our Capital Campaign are closely aligned in their support for the mission of the Church today and in the future. **The ACA responds**

to the day-to-day, ongoing needs of our diocese, while your Capital Campaign gift enables us to "Stand with Christ" for future and long-term projects and expenses not directly impacted by the three foundations. Programs

such as vocations, retirement for priests, and some Catholic Charities initiatives continue to rely heavily on the yearly support provided by your participation in the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. Together they answer the generational challenge issued by our Bishop as part of his vision of evangelization and renewal.





Here is how your gift makes a difference each day in ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal:

- Awards financial assistance for Catholic education through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund for young people across the Diocese.
- Ensures that children and young adults have the opportunity to participate in religious education programs.
- Educates and trains 24 men for ordination to priesthood in our Diocese.
- Educates and trains 5 men for ordination to the Permanent Diaconate program.
- Care for 72 senior priests in their dignified retirement.
- Affords our youth with meaningful opportunities to mature as holy and active members of society through a wide range of faith-based programs.
- Responds to spiritual, educational and social needs of persons with disabilities through the St. Catherine Center for Special Needs.

In addition, gifts support Catholic Charities nutrition, housing and counseling programs.

Nourishing the Homeless

- 1.3 million meals are served across the county, 52,000 lunches are provided at eight senior centers, and 90,000 meals are delivered to the elderly through the Meals on Wheels.

Sheltering the Homeless

- 70 plus homeless individuals live in safe housing after moving off the streets, 45 permanent housing units assist formerly incarcerated people reintegrating into society, 220 homeless or formerly homeless adults and children receive case management services in federally funded housing units.

Strengthening Families and Individuals

- 10,000 counseling sessions are provided, teachers educate 134 preschoolers of low-income families, 2,600 donated toys and over 1,000 clothing items to almost 900 people were donated during the last holiday season, and 387 immigration consultations assisted 22 individuals with obtaining U.S. citizenship.

Thank you for our continued support and sacrificial giving.

Please visit us at 2020ACABridgeport.org to learn more.

