

## Catholic Social Services

Gifts to the Catholic Appeal support **Catholic Social Services (CSS)** which serves and ministers to nearly 50,000 individuals each year. The Appeal supports the housing of women, men, children, and families that have been displaced due to numerous social and economic situations such as abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, unemployment, foreclosure, etc. in emergency assistance, homeless, and overflow shelters. In 2020, homeless shelters across the Diocese provided shelter for nearly 550 men and women.

Jean Anne, a guest of St. Joseph House, Hyannis



Shawn, a guest of Samaritan House, Taunton



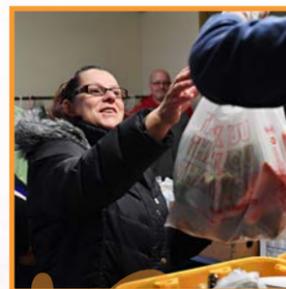
## Solanus Casey Food Pantry

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the **Solanus Casey Food Pantry** in New Bedford, a program of CSS, experienced a more than 150% increase in use, serving nearly 20,000 households representing more than 52,000 individuals. This included a significant increase in the number of elderly turning to the Food Pantry.



To meet a newfound demand among families, the Food Pantry also began offering diapers in Spring 2020. According to Program Manager Matt Dansereau (pictured here, center, with a team of Solanus Casey volunteers), **“We are at a point where we easily give out 2,500 diapers a week, along now with wipes, and sometimes baby food: something new we started that is definitely going to continue when we get ‘back to normal.’”**

When the pandemic brought food insecurity to an all-time high, the Food Pantry, which formerly distributed 6,000 pounds of food each week, began distributing 12,000 pounds of food each week – for an overall distribution of approximately 300 tons of food in 2020.



Love

## 2021 Catholic Appeal Goal: \$4 Million

In 2020, gifts to the Catholic Appeal supported the following ministries in the Diocese of Fall River.

### Social Services & Child Care

- Catholic Social Services
- Cathedral Day Camp
- St. Vincent’s Services
- Catholic Youth Organization

### Healthcare Ministry to the Sick/Hospital Chaplaincy

### Catholic Schools Support

### Support to Pastoral Ministries

- Campus Ministry
- Communications (includes support for the weekly Television Mass and The Anchor)
- Community Action for Better Housing
- Nursing Homes Pastoral Support
- Office of Faith Formation
- Office of Family Ministry
- Office for Religious
- Permanent Diaconate
- Prison Ministry
- Pro-Life Apostolate
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Office
- Spanish Apostolate
- St. Mary’s Cathedral Support
- Vocations Office and Support of Seminarians

To see a 2020 Catholic Appeal Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, please visit: [catholicfoundationsema.org/2020-revenue-and-expenditures](http://catholicfoundationsema.org/2020-revenue-and-expenditures)

**Parish and Collaborative Incentives:** This year, 50¢ of every dollar raised over a parish’s fundraising goal will be returned to the parishes for their use.

### MAKE YOUR GIFT OR PLEDGE TODAY!

**BY MAIL:** The Catholic Appeal, 450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720

**ONLINE:** [givefrdiocese.org/2021](http://givefrdiocese.org/2021) **CALL US:** 508-675-1311



### Diocese of Fall River

450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720  
Phone: 508-675-1311 • [www.fallriverdiocese.org](http://www.fallriverdiocese.org)

\*Some photos in this brochure were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.



80<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

— DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

Time to *Gather*, Time to *Heal*, Time to *Love*



*“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, a stranger and you took me into your home, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”*

— Matthew 25:35-36

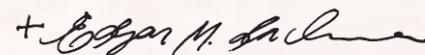
*My dear friends in Christ,*

The theme of our 80th Annual Catholic Appeal, **“Time to Gather, Time to Heal, Time to Love,”** inspires us to be living examples of the healing power of Christ’s love. The whole world seems to be calling out to be renewed and the need for the ministries, programs, and apostolates funded through our gifts to the Catholic Appeal has never been greater.

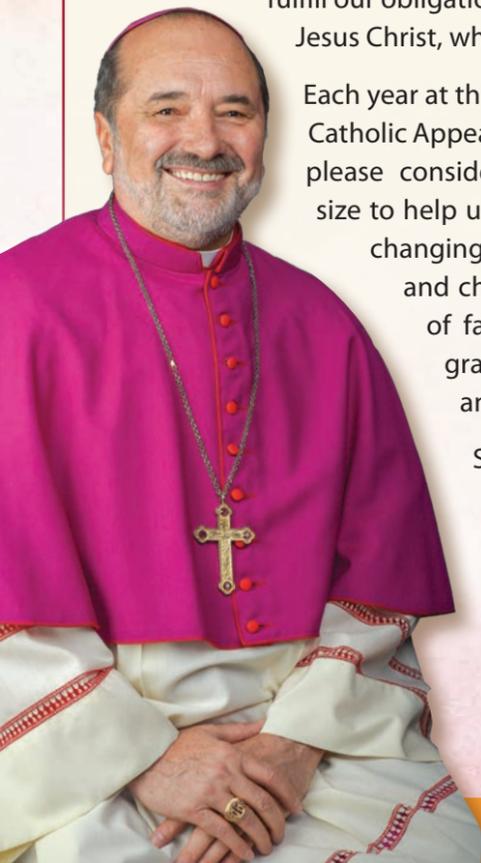
Sacred Scripture reminds us that love is the most important way we share our Savior’s light with the world: *“Let love make you serve one another”* (Galatians 5:13). In Christianity, charity is the highest form of love between God and our brothers and sisters; the two words, charity and love, are synonymous. When we show charity to others, we bring this love to life in so many wonderful ways and we fulfill our obligation to live in the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for us.

Each year at this time, I ask for your support of the Catholic Appeal. Should your circumstances allow, please consider making a contribution of any size to help us carry out our mission in real, life-changing ways. As we face many hardships and challenges together as a community of faith, I am especially humbled and grateful for your continued, loving care and blessed to serve as your Bishop.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha,  
S.D.V., D.D.  
Bishop of Fall River



## The 80th Annual Catholic Appeal

runs from **May 1 through June 30**. Since 1942, the Appeal has helped people in all phases of life throughout our Diocese, which spans from Mansfield, Easton and the Attleboro’s, through the Taunton, Fall River and New Bedford areas, and extends all the way to Cape Cod and the Islands. Each year, the agencies and apostolates supported by the Appeal assist and minister to over 100,000 individuals and families who turn to us for help. Your support strengthens and continues this important work, while transforming lives.

*“I pray that we can once again gather together and be a source of hope, healing, and love in the Diocese of Fall River.” – Bishop da Cunha (shown here cooking a meal at Sr. Rose Soup Kitchen in New Bedford)*



## Office of Faith Formation

The **Office of Faith Formation** offers a wide number of opportunities for Catholics of all ages to bear witness to their faith and develop confident voices to uphold their faith throughout their lives. Each year, the **Pope Pius the Tenth Youth Award** honors outstanding young Catholics across the Diocese of Fall River. In 2020, 49 teens received this honor, including John Mahoney of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Attleboro:



*“A good way to stay close to Jesus is to take a few minutes at the beginning of each morning to ask God for the strength to do His will that day. At the end of the day, it is helpful to examine my conscience and reflect on all that has transpired throughout the day... I find that doing this helps me stay closer to God and keeps room for Him in my life and my heart.” – John Mahoney*

## Pro-Life Apostolate



For nearly 30 years, the **Diocesan Pro-Life Apostolate** has offered annual programs and events for people of all ages to sustain a culture that respects life from conception to natural death. It also has a mission of educating the youth of the Diocese of Fall River. The office offers individuals in the Diocese the chance to take part in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., a Pro-Life Mass with Bishop da Cunha, a Pro-Life essay contest for junior high school and high school students at all our Diocesan schools, and an annual Pro-Life Boot Camp. It also recognizes an individual annually with the Diocesan Pro-Life Person of the Year Award.

## Office of Vocations

Your gift directly supports the formation of our devoted seminarians as future priests and the work of the **Office of Vocations**. As in-person classrooms shifted to remote learning last year, many of our seminarians took up residence at our parishes, including Matthew Laird and William O’Donnell, who joined the community of Holy Family in East Taunton while continuing their studies. Bill and Matt, who both grew up on Cape Cod, are members of the St. John’s Seminary Ordination Class of 2022.



*“We are always praying for the Lord to send more workers into the vineyard. The men who are out there discerning are the future of our Church. By reaching out to these men as donors, you can build a strong future.”*

– William O’Donnell



*“Behind every seminarian is a large support group. Gifts to the Catholic Appeal and the prayers of donors mean so much to us. Please keep praying for us, especially now when we can’t be as connected (due to the COVID-19 pandemic).”*

– Matthew Laird

*Gather Heal*