

Ensure A Bright Future...

Your gift to the Appeal strengthens the Church today and tomorrow, providing opportunities for the youth of our diocese to learn and grow in their faith while establishing and deepening lifelong Catholic values.

Gifts to the Appeal help make a Catholic education accessible to families of all backgrounds through tuition abatement and scholarship aid.



"It's been an amazing day. The fact that there are so many youth gathered together to praise the Lord and to share this wonderful faith that we have and this wonderful love that we feel for God. I would like to thank the Catholic Appeal donors so much, everyone that's been helping to make days like this happen, because they literally change lives forever."

– Maria Godoy, participant in Catholic Youth Day 2022



Our seminarians benefit from your generosity as they move forward in their journey toward the priesthood.

"I felt the invitation of the Lord to help bring His mercy and love which I had received, to others; to live a life serving Him and his Church, accompanying and guiding His people to true happiness in His merciful heart."

– Lucas Daniel DaCosta, St. John's Seminary Ordination Class of 2025

Bless Our Families...

The Office of Family and Respect Life delivers life-changing support to expectant mothers, the unborn, married couples, families, and the elderly. Your gift to the Catholic Appeal goes directly to work upholding and celebrating a culture of life: at every age, and at every stage.



"The family, the bedrock of society, must have strong roots if it is to withstand all that comes its way. This means as parents we must do our best and then let the Holy Spirit do the rest. We must speak with authority and provide clear direction for our children so they may navigate today's society."

– Irina Robinson, Director of Family and Respect Life (shown at a baby shower for a local mom in need)



"We have served on the marriage preparation team for the diocese for the past 10 years. In the past, we could count on couples having support outside of their parish, in their homes and in their wider families. But the reality is, a lot of couples don't naturally have that. So we really need to form couples in appreciating a biblical and Christian view of marriage. We can't take for granted they would otherwise get that."

– Deb and Doug Sousa, Marriage Preparation Leaders and Parishioners of St. John of God, Somerset

Comfort The Sick...



The Office of Pastoral Ministry to the Sick ministers to the sick and dying of all faiths and spiritual walks in all of the hospitals in the diocese. It offers a network of full and part-time chaplains who provide much-needed support in the form of visits, prayer, distribution of Communion, and administration of the Sacrament of the Sick to thousands of individuals.

"I find a lot of holy moments throughout the day at the hospital. A lot of people, like the elderly, they don't get to Mass as often as they once did, because they don't drive anymore. They'll tell me, 'I haven't been since the beginning of COVID,' or 'I don't get out there.' And I reassure them, I say, 'Well, the Church comes out to you today.' And that's a beautiful thing. They receive Holy Communion, like they might not have in a few years. And then, you see a tear in their eye – and we rejoice with prayer afterwards."

– Deacon Paul Spearin, Chaplain at Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River

MAKE YOUR GIFT OR PLEDGE TODAY!



The Catholic Appeal – Diocese of Fall River
P.O. Box 237, Kensington, CT 06037-0237



www.givefrdiocese.org



508-675-1311



Hover your phone's camera over this QR code to be taken directly to our secure online giving page:



"You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

– St. Teresa of Calcutta



Diocese of Fall River

450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720

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Do This in Memory of Me

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Lord, you make all things new. Nourished by the gift of the Eucharist, let us always remember your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. Help us to know and serve all our brothers and sisters in need, for there is no darkness greater than your light.



82ND ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

My dear friends in Christ,



The theme of our 82nd Annual Catholic Appeal, ***“Do This in Memory of Me,”*** inspires us to keep the sacred mystery of our faith – the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist – at the center of how we live each moment of our lives. We are in the middle of a National Eucharistic Revival: an important opportunity for us to reconnect with our Savior, with the Church, and with our faith. What better time to rekindle a flame of hope across the Diocese of Fall River, by sharing the gifts our Lord has so lovingly bestowed upon us.

Our modern world makes it very difficult to pass along the traditions and values we have shared as a Church for 2,000 years; this includes the practice of going to Mass. But it's precisely because of these secular distractions that we must fight to uphold the teachings of our Catholic faith. Something as simple as gathering around a table and sharing a meal together binds us. This particular meal of the Eucharist, when we gather around the table of the Lord, promotes and brings about our unity in Jesus and with each other.

By participating in the Liturgy, we gain the strength and the purpose to look outward and see the needs of the world around us. Thousands in our midst are crying out for healing, for caring, for assurance and hope. Each and every day, our diocesan programs and ministries help individuals and families receive the physical, emotional, and spiritual assistance necessary to grow closer to God and to each other.

Additionally, in the past year Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fall River established a much needed Mental Health Ministry, providing education and awareness and offering companionship for those affected by mental health issues and their loved ones. As a diocese, we are working to meet a need that has become quite literally, mission critical – reminding those struggling they are never alone. Our donations to the Appeal truly save lives.



“My flesh for the life of the world.”
– John 6:51

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Edgar M. da Cunha

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

The 82nd Annual Catholic Appeal • May 1 – June 30 • 2023 Appeal Goal: \$4.6 Million

The Catholic Appeal has been the main source for channeling resources to those in need across the Diocese of Fall River for more than 80 years. The Appeal funds numerous agencies and apostolates, including:

■ Support to Pastoral Ministries – 29%

- Campus Ministry
- Catholic Youth Organization
- Diocesan-wide Youth Events and Retreats
- Marriage Preparation and Enrichment
- Middle and High School Faith Formation
- Family Ministry
- Office for Religious
- Permanent Diaconate
- Programs for the Widowed, Separated, and Divorced
- Respect Life (Pro-Life) Ministry
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Office
- Office of the Secretariat for the New Evangelization
- Retired Clergy Support
- Spanish Apostolate
- St. Mary's Cathedral Support
- Vocations Office and Support of Seminarians

■ Social Services and Child Care – 27%

- Bereavement Support
- Citizenship Preparation
- Community Action for Better Housing
- Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen, and Food Vouchers
- Homeless Shelters and Homeless Outreach Services
- Individual and Family Resources and Counseling
- Guild for the Blind
- Mental Health Ministry
- Office for Persons with Disabilities
- Outreach and Legal Advocacy for Immigrant Communities
- Pregnancy Support
- Refugee Resettlement
- St. Vincent's Services
- Transitional and Long-Term Housing

■ Catholic Schools Support – 23%

- Scholarship Aid
- Tuition Abatement

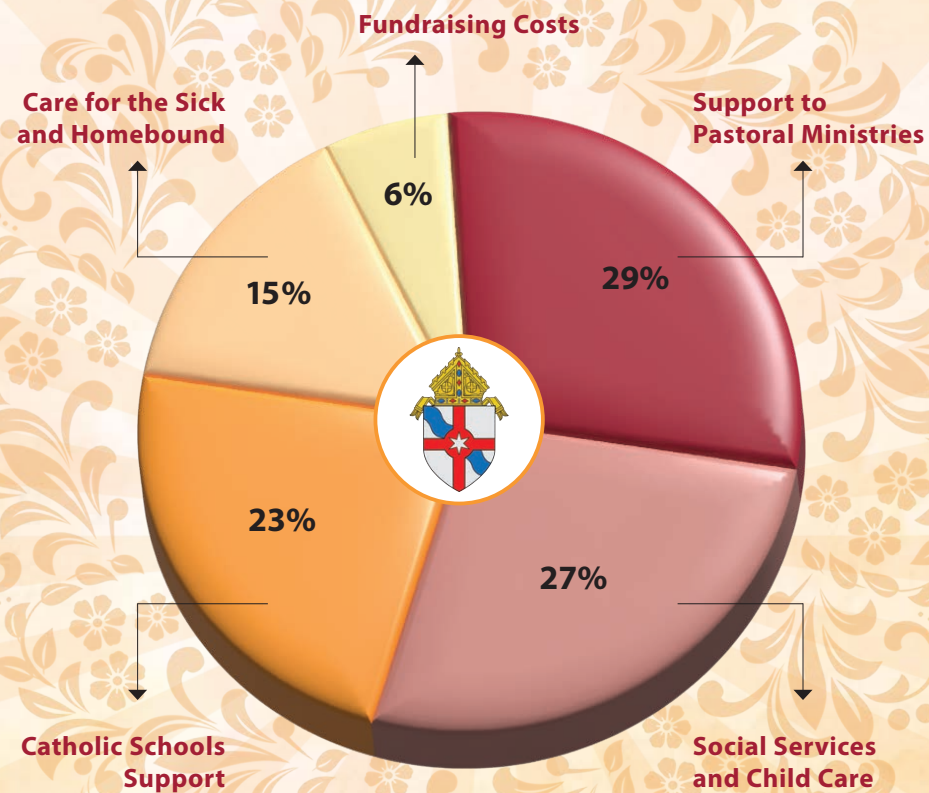
■ Care for the Sick and Homebound – 15%

- Pastoral Ministry to the Sick at Hospitals
- Diocesan Health Facilities/Nursing Homes Pastoral Support
- Weekly Television Mass

■ Fundraising Costs – 6%

Your Gift Transforms Lives!

In 2022, more than 16,000 parishioners, friends, and supporters came together to contribute \$4.3 million to sustain the important ministries, agencies, and programs of the Diocese of Fall River through the Catholic Appeal:



To see a 2022 Catholic Appeal Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, please visit:
catholicfoundationsema.org/2022-revenue-and-expenditures

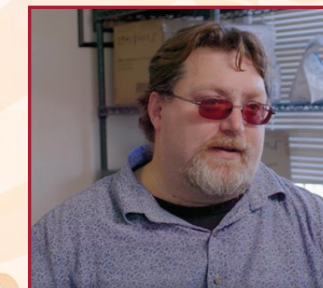
Incentive Program Provides Parish Support:

When a parish reaches its Catholic Appeal fundraising goal, 50% of all gifts received over the goal are returned to the parish to help strengthen its own ministry.

Our Ministries in Action

Shelter The Homeless...

Your Catholic Appeal gift helps provide housing throughout the diocese for women, men, children, and families who have been displaced. **St. Joseph House in Hyannis** provides 15 beds for female guests and 30 beds for male guests, as well as a winter overflow program on nights when the temperature drops below 28 degrees. Their day program serves as a safe space to gather for three meals a day, activities that foster connection and skill building, and the loving support of the caring and compassionate team at the shelter.



“It's not just a roof over your head, St. Joseph's House. It's not even the food or anything like that. It's the peace of mind. It's a safe place to sleep at night. I have a group of guys here that I talk to every day, and they keep my spirits up. I don't feel like I'm in a homeless shelter. I feel like I'm home.”

– Bill, a guest of St. Joseph House, Hyannis

Feed The Hungry...



Pope Francis once said, “Yes, you pray for the hungry. But then, you feed them. This is how prayer works.” Your Appeal gift helps bring together individuals of all ages seeking nourishment of body and spirit at the **Pope Francis Outreach Center (PFOC)** in the south end of Fall River, offering food, fellowship, a thrift store, and a warming center for the city, as well as a popular “Grab & Go” meals program that has been a staple of the community since 2020.

“This (the Pope Francis Outreach Center) is not just a thrift store. This is not just a soup kitchen. This is a community.”

– Deacon Alan Thadeu (shown here assisting with the weekly Thursday morning breakfast at the PFOC)