

WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Your gift to the Appeal helps the Diocese of Fall River serve our parishes, schools, and college campuses by equipping the faithful of all ages to play active roles in an invigorated Catholic Church.



World Youth Day 2023 was a shining example of faith in action through the energy, hope, and vitality of the 1.5 million people who attended the event in Portugal – including 24 pilgrims from the Diocese of Fall River. In the words of Pope Francis, it was a “great intercontinental pilgrimage of young people.” But to evangelize, we do not have to set out for worlds unknown, and we do not need to be “young.” Christ gives us the strength to arise and walk with Him, no matter our age. To light the world around us, we need only share our love of Jesus with as many of our brothers and sisters as we can, through actively giving of ourselves every day to those in need.



“There's a lot of expectations and it's easy for our young people to feel like they're just not enough. They want someone who can speak on their level authentically, who can see them not as a number, not as a grade point average, not as a statistic. The only one who can do that is Jesus Christ. It's so important to be able to talk to them and say, 'I see you. I see what you're going through. I'm being authentic with my own witness to you. And listen, this person, Jesus Christ, who sees you too, isn't asking you to be anyone other than who you are.' And the more that we can offer opportunities, programs, encounters, experiences where they hear that message in a way that resonates with their personal experience, that's what it's going to take to pass that faith on to the next generation.”

– David Carvalho, Secretary for the New Evangelization for the Diocese of Fall River

LOVE LIGHTS THE WAY



Our donors also provide direct support to our seminarians and the **Office of Vocations**, which assists men who are hearing the call to a life of service in the priesthood.

“The call to priesthood is not just one out of the many careers in the world. An important lesson for a young man thinking about becoming a priest is that the priesthood is less like a career, and more like getting married. It's more (a question of) ‘what is that foundational lifestyle choice in service to God for which God has created me?’ What we try to do as priests is develop that relationship with the man, to get to know him and begin to walk with him in that journey of trying to discern and perceive the call of the Lord.”

– Fr. Jack Schrader, Pastor at Corpus Christi Parish and Diocese of Fall River Vocations Director


Support for the Catholic Appeal extends past physical assistance to help uphold spiritual and mental well-being. Catholic Charities has launched a much-needed **Mental Health Ministry** within our diocese. This ministry's main purpose is spiritual accompaniment - reminding parishioners affected by mental health issues that they are not alone. The ministry provides education and awareness; creates a welcoming, accepting environment; offers companionship for those affected by mental health issues; supports family members and caregivers; and provides advocacy and referrals for therapy, counseling, or clinical treatment.




“Why is it so important to donate to the Catholic Appeal? Well, because somebody's mental health and mental wellness is critical. We see (physical) illnesses and we sympathize with someone who may be dealing with cancer, diabetes, or a heart condition. But when it comes to mental health, so often people are told things like, ‘It's just temporary. You'll be fine. Just smile and get over it.’ And it's critical for us to deal with the whole person and deal with mental wellness, get people to a state where they can be totally healthy. This (Mental Health) Ministry is critical. We help individuals find those doors, open those doors, get past the barriers, and get the help they need.”


– Rose Mary Saraiva, Volunteer, Bereavement, and Mental Health Ministry Coordinator, CCFR


MAKE YOUR GIFT OR PLEDGE TODAY!

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


Make checks payable to "Catholic Appeal"

 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:



 SCAN ME

“We become luminous, we shine, when, welcoming Jesus, we learn to love like Him. To love like Jesus: that makes us luminous, that leads us to do works of love.”

– Pope Francis

Celebrating
120
1904 • 2024
Diocese of Fall River

Diocese of Fall River
450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720
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RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH



Celebrating
120
1904 • 2024
Diocese of Fall River

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.



83RD ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

MY DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,



The theme of our 83rd Annual Catholic Appeal, **“Renew the Face of the Earth,”** reminds us that our acts of charity and love renew those around us. With each outstretched helping hand, we create a small ripple effect of care. This kindness spreads and allows us to play a part in renewing the face of the entire earth – starting here in our Diocese of Fall River.

All around us are signs of spring, reawakening our surroundings after a long winter. Having just celebrated Christ’s glorious resurrection, our spirits, too, have experienced a rebirth, stepping out of the darkness and into the light.

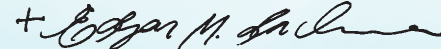
Through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, God is constantly reaffirming us. In the Book of Genesis, Noah uses a dove to deliver signs of

receding floodwaters back to the arc: the promise of a new beginning after a period of trial and adversity. Even then, hope came on the wings of a dove.

How can we be modern-day messengers of renewal? As a united, active Church focused on the Gospel, the teachings, and the presence of Jesus. Together the faithful of the Diocese of Fall River will renew the face of the earth, renew our faith community, renew a spirit of hope and joy, and renew our Church.

This year, we celebrate our 120th anniversary as a diocese. I can think of no better way to mark this historic milestone than by joining together in support of the Catholic Appeal. Should your circumstances allow, please consider making a contribution of any size to help us carry out our mission. When what we believe in our hearts extends to what we do in our everyday lives, we can – and will – make a positive impact on the lives of those in need throughout our diocese.

Holy Spirit, renew our joy. Holy Spirit, renew our faith. Help us renew the face of the earth!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,


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

The 83rd Annual Catholic Appeal • May 1 – June 30 • 2024 Appeal Goal: \$5 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 – 42%

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

Catholic Schools Support – 20%

- Scholarship Aid
- Tuition Abatement

Social Services and Child Care – 19%

- Bereavement Support
- Citizenship Preparation
- Community Action for Better Housing
- Food Pantry, Meal Center, and Food Vouchers
- Guild for the Blind
- Homeless Shelters
- Individual and Family Resources
- Mental Health Ministry
- Outreach and Legal Advocacy for Immigrant Communities
- Pregnancy Support
- St. Vincent’s Services
- Transitional and Long-Term Housing

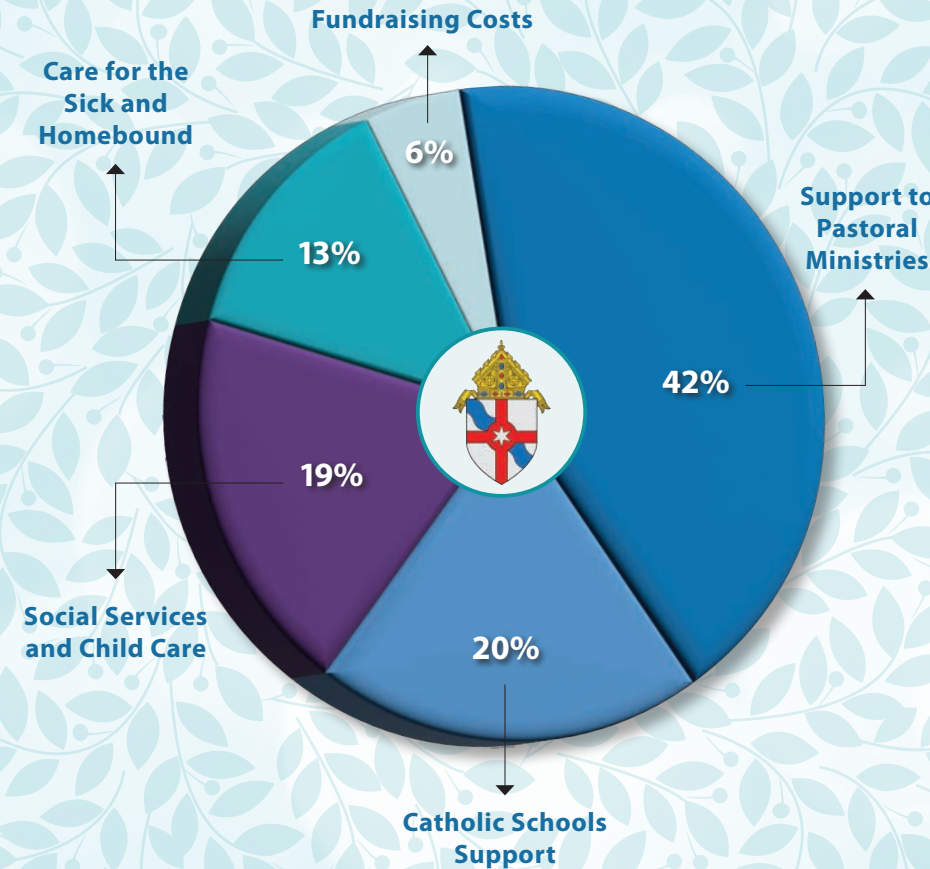
Care for the Sick and Homebound – 13%

- 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 2023, more than 15,000 parishioners, friends, and supporters came together to contribute \$4.5 million to sustain the important ministries, agencies, and programs of the Diocese of Fall River through the Catholic Appeal:



To see a 2023 Catholic Appeal Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, please visit:
catholicfoundationsema.org/2023-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.

TRANSFORMING LIVES IN OUR DIOCESE

Your Catholic Appeal gift helps **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fall River** (CCFR) carry out its promise to provide Service Anchored in Faith. Celebrating its 100th year, CCFR serves approximately 40,000 individuals in the diocese each year. As the human services arm of the Diocese of Fall River, CCFR helps with basic and emergency needs, homelessness, food insecurity, immigration issues, housing services, disabilities, mental health ministry, foreclosure help, citizenship services, and much more.



Jean Charles, a guest of Samaritan House, Taunton



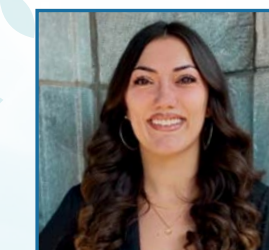
Catholic Charities Diocese of Fall River
 Service Anchored in Faith

“We are the faith in action. When you think of the corporal works of mercy – feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger – that is what Catholic Charities does. That is what we embody.”

– Susan Mazarella, CEO, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fall River

“I always talk about two types of results from Catholic Appeal donations. One is the things that are seen, such as the meals served at the soup kitchen, food provided by the food pantry. Then there are the things that are not seen, such as the individuals who move out of shelter and in five years come back and volunteer their time because of the work of our shelters and the help that our shelters provided them. Catholic Appeal donations not only have a current impact, they also have a long-term impact.”

– Rui Rosa, Chief Financial Officer, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fall River



Your support of the Appeal also funds the work of **Community Action for Better Housing** (CABH), offering safe, affordable places to live in Fall River and New Bedford. CABH works with many different groups – including the elderly, homeless, those actively recovering from addiction, or victims of domestic violence – to provide them with secure housing and a stepping stone to a brighter future.

“We provide stable housing for individuals who often wouldn’t have that opportunity elsewhere. I want to say ‘thank you’ to everybody who donates to the Catholic Appeal. Without you, it wouldn’t be possible for us to be as successful as we are. You are the key to us continuing to help as many people as we possibly can.”

– Amy DeSousa, Property Manager, Community Action for Better Housing