



# sharing

GOD'S GIFTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL  
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT





Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As disciples of Christ, we are called upon to follow in His footsteps. When we answer His call and share in the mission of the Church, lives are changed. I am grateful for your generosity and the gifts you share with others, many of whom you may never meet. The 2017 **Annual Catholic Appeal, *Sharing God's Gifts, Transforming Lives*** offers us the opportunity to thank Him in return for all we have been given by supporting vital ministries and programs and continuing the Gospel message. The Appeal is a source of hope and charity to those in need and for the future of the Church. Each year I prayerfully ask for your help so we can continue our Christian journey; together we can transform lives. I offer my daily prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*frank caggiano*

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport



# SHARING GOD'S GIFTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE PERSON AT A TIME

## General Mission of the Church

- The Annual Catholic Appeal supports a variety of ministries that touch thousands of people every year. Every dollar that is pledged supports a variety of ministries where the Gospel is proclaimed and lives are changed for the better.

## Catholic Education

- The Bishop's Scholarship Fund provides support for students from across the Diocese who otherwise could not afford a Catholic education, which helps them live and learn their faith by growing intellectually, spiritually and morally.
- The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport educates nearly 1,000 inner-city elementary school children who benefit from academic excellence and Catholic values.

## Charity and Justice

- Catholic Charities puts faith in action by feeding the hungry and homebound, housing the homeless, and empowering and counseling individuals and families in need.
- Priests, Deacons and Religious Sisters provide pastoral care of the sick and elderly in nursing homes and hospitals.

## Catechesis and Evangelization

- Youth and young adults are afforded opportunities to encounter Jesus Christ through parish religious education, the High School Apostolate Leadership program, Convivio, and more.
- The 75 member C4Y Diocesan Youth Choir with representatives from 35 parishes has inspired the Diocese.

## Clergy

- Retired clergy live out their retirement in comfort and dignity at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence.
- Seminarians discern their vocation and prepare for the future of the Church at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford and major seminaries.
- Deacons fulfill their vocational calling serving their parish communities.

## Social and Pastoral Services

- Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs provides educational and pastoral services for people with developmental disabilities including autism through Saint Catherine Academy, Adult Day Services and parish outreach.
- The Catholic Service Corps invites young people to serve others in need as an expression of their Catholic faith.
- Training and development for priests, support for ethnic ministries, and strategic planning all provide for the future of the Diocese.
- The Leadership Institute offers all adults the opportunity to learn the richness of our Catholic faith and practical resources to help ensure that the next generation of leaders is well formed and enthusiastic about spreading the Good News.

## THE CATHERINE DENNIS KEEFE QUEEN OF THE CLERGY RESIDENCE

Located in Stamford is a beautiful facility for retired priests who have served faithfully and generously for many years. The recently expanded residence provides 33 suites for independent living, and includes a chapel, community room, exercise area, dining facility, library, kitchen and full-service laundry. It is our way of saying “**thank you**” to our priests who have given so much to our Diocese.



### PHYLLIS AND KIM

#### Catholic Charities

(Kim, right) “Before I came to Catholic Charities I was in a dark place. Now I am so happy; the counseling program changed my life for the better.”

(Phyllis, left) “I had chaos in my life before coming to Catholic Charities, now my life has meaning and I am confident in society.”

Phyllis and Kim became friends and now work together to facilitate a women’s group at CCFC.



### ONYI, Bishop’s Scholarship Fund recipient

“My faith is very important to me and being in a Catholic school nurtures my faith and allows me to be the best I can be academically.” The Bishop’s Scholarship Fund gives families the opportunity to provide for a Catholic education.



**JULIO & LILIANA SANCHEZ**

**St. Benedict Parish, Stamford**

*We hold an evangelization class and retreat in our parish once a month; we teach the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**FATHER MARCEL SAINT JEAN**

**St. Joseph Manor, Trumbull**

*Mother Teresa used to say: "Love in Action" and we love in action at the nursing homes. The staff and volunteers apply it through our caring in words and deeds to help people who are in the most vulnerable moments of their journey.*



**GOAL-\$11,000,000**

**ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN 2017**

Each year, the Diocese of Bridgeport assesses its financial resources, the needs of parishioners and its ability to respond effectively and with compassion. This illustration is an overview of how Appeal contributions will be distributed:

<b>CATHOLIC EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
• Bishop's Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 1,700,000
• Catholic Academy of Bridgeport .....	\$ 300,000
<b>CHARITY AND JUSTICE</b> .....	<b>\$2,175,000</b>
• Catholic Charities of Fairfield County .....	\$ 1,250,000
• Pastoral Care of the Sick and Elderly .....	\$ 925,000
<b>CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION</b> .....	<b>\$1,401,000</b>
• Catechesis and Evangelization Programs .....	\$ 701,000
• Communication and Social Media .....	\$ 700,000
<b>CLERGY</b> .....	<b>\$3,483,000</b>
• Formation of Priests and Deacons .....	\$1,817,000
• Pastoral Care of Retired Priests .....	\$1,666,000
<b>SOCIAL AND PASTORAL SERVICES</b> .....	<b>\$1,470,000</b>
• Pastoral Life and Ministries .....	\$ 950,000
• Youth .....	\$ 270,000
• St. Catherine Center for Special Needs .....	\$ 250,000

In the spirit of financial transparency, the cost to conduct the Annual Catholic Appeal totals less than 5 cents on the dollar based on the 2017 ACA goal. Fundraising expenses may also provide additional support to a number of these areas.



## WAYS TO GIVE

When contemplating your level of sacrifice, please consider using the Pledge Plan. Pledging will allow a greater sacrifice by extending the payment of your gift through December 31, 2017.

**GIFTS** - Checks may be made payable to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please do not send cash.

**CREDIT CARD** - A credit card gift may be payable online or by pledge card.

**ONLINE GIVING** - 2017ACAbridgeport.com.

**MATCHING GIFTS** - Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities and Catholic Schools. Please contact 203-416-1312 for more information.

**GIFTS OF SECURITIES** - If you own securities that have appreciated in value, they can be given to the Appeal and their full market value becomes a tax deductible gift. Please contact 203-416-1470 for more information.

**For more information, please email [2017ACA@diobpt.org](mailto:2017ACA@diobpt.org) or call us at: 203-416-1470.**

### Court of Honor

The Court of Honor recognizes donors who have demonstrated their extraordinary generosity to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Membership is extended to any individual or family that contributes an Appeal gift of \$2,500 or more.

- Bishop's Leadership Circle (\$25,000 and above)
- Lawrence Cardinal Shehan Society (\$10,000-\$24,999)
- Bishop Walter Curtis Society (\$5,000-\$9,999)
- Court of Honor Partner (\$2,500-\$4,999)



**Give online:**  
[www.2017ACAbridgeport.com](http://www.2017ACAbridgeport.com)