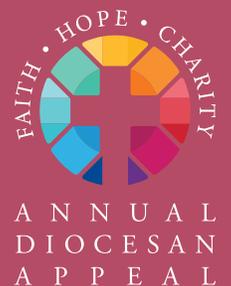


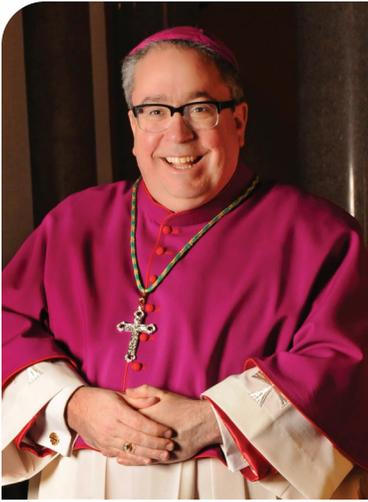
A Report on the Gifts to the **2021**

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



Each year, the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports struggling parishes, outreach ministries and the vital programs of the Diocese of Fort Worth. The presence and hope of Jesus Christ is being strengthened every day in our diocese thanks to gifts made to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. The stories of people who have found support through the Annual Diocesan Appeal remind us of Jesus, the reason for our hope. This report offers a comprehensive account of how gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal were used throughout the year.





Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For the year ending June 30, 2021, with the support and generosity of 8,648 families, the Annual Diocesan Appeal raised \$2,978,532.

These words of gratitude I write today offer only a glimpse of how truly grateful I am to all of you who contributed to the 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal in both prayer and generosity. It is because of your commitment to making Christ known and loved in the Diocese of Fort Worth that so many people have felt the support of our Catholic community.

Your gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal fill me with hope that the healing, teaching and redeeming presence of Jesus is alive throughout the 28 counties of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

During a year when our lives were shaken by a pandemic and devastating winter storms, I met with many people and listened to their stories. I felt encouraged at the witness of Christ's work in the lives of those in need. However, I hear just as many stories of hurt and suffering, and I know that our work is never done. In those moments of suffering, I urge you to join me in trusting fully in the divine goodness of Jesus, who is the reason for our hope.

In spite of the strife of the last year, your tremendous support of the 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal filled me with even more hope. The diocese was able to generously support so many vital ministries this year thanks to the generosity of so many with hearts open to giving.

Know that each gift you have made and will make in the future is taken very seriously. We know that you have considered with great discernment how to make of yourselves and your resources a gift, and we understand that you have trusted us with a great task. That task comes with great responsibility and zeal to transform the lives of as many people as possible.

Every dollar you donated is accounted for and used to support the essential ministries and outreach programs that truly change the lives of so many of God's children. It is with enthusiasm that I share with you this Annual Report of the 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal. This report is a source of much hope for me as I read how the lives of people in parishes, schools, and diverse ministries were touched by the generosity of our diocesan community.

I hope you feel like you have made a difference in someone's life today, because indeed you have.

Should you have any questions regarding this annual report, I encourage you to reach out to our Advancement Foundation at 817-533-7242.

Once again, I give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity to serve Him through His people and find the reason for our hope in Him.

May He bless you and keep you,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth



Serving God In Others

The **Annual Diocesan Appeal** calls us to faith, hope and charity by contributing for the common good, impacting lives beyond the scope of any individual parish and people giving to people.

The Priest Care Fund ensures medical and long-term care beyond what is provided by insurance to those who have devoted their lives in service to the Church.

Providing spiritual nourishment to inmates in 15 different detention centers, county jails and federal and state prisons, **Prison Ministry** gives hope to those most in need of Christ's redemptive love.

The strengthening of Marriage and Family Life is a ray of light for couples getting married in the Church, those who are struggling in their **marriage and family life**, and those who are grieving a loss through death or divorce.

Stewardship Education and Parish Engagement Programs form parishioners in living their discipleship to Christ in their everyday lives.

Operating Grants made possible by your donations to the Annual Diocesan Appeal provided \$842,434 in assistance to 29 rural and financially struggling parishes to provide priest and staff salaries, utilities, faith formation and outreach programs.

No one is more vulnerable than the unborn. With a commitment to life from conception to natural death, the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports the work of various **Respect Life Ministries** throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth.



Reaching Out in Charity

For more than a century, **Catholic Charities Fort Worth** (CCFW) has been working every day to end poverty, one family at a time. Each year, CCFW provides hope and help to tens of thousands across North Texas. As an agency committed to adapting to the needs of the community, CCFW has been on the front lines of the COVID-19 and winter storms response. Since the onset of the pandemic, CCFW has helped more than 12,500 families facing crisis within a crisis.

In 2020:

127 families reached **out-of-poverty** status, surpassing the goal of helping 121 families leave poverty behind for good.

Stay the Course supported 738 students on their journey to achieve vocational and educational credentials. 121 students earned a degree/credential or were accepted into a 4-year university.

Refugee-focused poverty solutions engaged 101 families and helped 47 to reach living-wage employment. The **Gabriel Project** served 311 moms, provided \$31,000 of financial help, and distributed \$72,000 worth of baby items.

Rural Vocations served 425 students while 119 students graduated or successfully transferred. The **Northwest Campus** engaged 166 clients in out-of poverty solutions through Community Connections.

Supporting Those Who Hear God's Call

Encouraging all people to prayerfully discern God's unique call for their lives and to respond with courage, the **Office of Vocations** guides those discerning a life of service to the Church through ordained ministry and religious life. The vocations to the priesthood and religious life are undeniably essential to the future of the Church. Priests, as ministers of the Sacraments, ensure that the pastoral and spiritual needs of all Catholics are met in the reception of the Sacraments.

At a cultural crossroads, we acknowledge that encouraging people to discern a call to

the priesthood or religious life can be a very counter-cultural decision. But, with the grace of God and the support of the entire diocesan community, people are responding to God's call to a life of service to the Church with bold enthusiasm.

During the the past year, 30 men were discerning God's call for their lives through **seminarian formation**. These men attended seminaries all over the country, including St. Joseph's Seminary (Louisiana), Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.) and Assumption Seminary (Texas). The highlight of the year was the May 2021 ordination of six new priests for service to the Diocese of Fort Worth.

During the last year, there were 12 candidates and 9 aspirants in formation for lives of service through the **permanent diaconate**.

Nineteen orders of religious men and women are in residence throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth, serving in our parishes and schools, in prayer, faith formation and outreach to the poor and vulnerable.

Faith Formation for Our Youth

Through parish catechetical programs, Catholic schools and campus ministry on college campuses, the Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to ensuring our children and young people have the opportunity to come to know the love of Christ and become empowered and thoughtful citizens.

Pope Francis wrote of the importance of education in the lives of children in his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*: "The work of handing on the faith to children, in the sense of facilitating its expression and growth, helps the whole family in its evangelizing mission. It naturally begins to spread the faith to all around them, even outside of the family circle."

Operating Grants from the Annual Diocesan Appeal help parishes serve families through catechetical programs and youth ministries and bring hope to the future of the Church in the world. Throughout the diocese, 17,908 students participated in parish-based religious education and sacramental preparation programs last year.

Additionally, the Annual Diocesan Appeal provided \$150,000 in **tuition assistance**, as well as \$247,000 in **grants** to support the operations of 12 schools. Rooted in unlocking the doors to truth, beauty and goodness, the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Fort Worth provide students with a Christ-centered classical education in the tradition of the Church and joy of the Gospel.

Just as Jesus encourages us in the Gospels to reach out to those who are most in need of His word, the Diocese of Fort Worth offers **Campus Ministry** outreach on eight different college campuses around North Central Texas. Students have access to Bible studies, on-campus Mass, social events, spiritual growth opportunities, retreats and the Sacraments. These programs benefit from the generous support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

The children and young people served in our parish catechetical programs, youth ministry, Catholic schools and campus ministry programs are our hope in the future of the Church in the world. Supporting their faith formation through a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal is an investment in the souls of thousands of children and future saints.



2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal at a Glance

\$2,978,532 raised

8,648 participating households

\$346.38 average gift

20 parishes achieved assigned goals

29 parishes received operating grants totaling \$842,434

17 schools benefited from operating grants totaling \$247,000

17 schools received tuition assistance totaling \$150,000

\$385,000 was provided to Catholic Charities to support Stay the Course and Gabriel Ministries

Ways to Give



By Mail

Please make checks payable to **Annual Diocesan Appeal** and note your parish name in the memo line of the check. Please do not mail cash.

Advancement Foundation
201 Main Street, Suite 1198
Fort Worth TX 76102-3105



Online

Visit our secure online giving site at bit.ly/ADADonate or use QR code at left.



At Your Parish

Pass in your envelope at your parish

There are many ways to give, including monthly recurring giving, stocks, employer matching gifts, qualified charitable distributions from a retirement account. Learn more at: www.advancementfoundation.org/annual-diocesan-appeal-ways-to-give.

Questions or Comments?

Please call 817-945-9463

