



Providing works of charity, formation
in faith, education and catechesis.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

"Arise" is the theme of the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal and is a statement of hope for renewal and recovery this year. The story of Lazarus continues to come to mind in my reflections. The Lord's words to Lazarus are, "untie him and let him go free," and that is precisely the invitation from the Lord to each of us — to arise from the darkness of this pandemic and to seek new life in Him.

As I look upon the past year, during a time of unexpected and historic crisis, I am deeply grateful for your generous response to the Appeal, which brought the mercy of Christ to so many.

This year's goal is \$8.1 million, 10% less than last year due to the success of the We Stand With Christ Capital Campaign, and will allow the Diocese to maintain the immediate works of charity, formation in faith, education and catechesis, while the Capital Campaign sustains the long-term mission of the Diocese. Please join with me in making a gift to **"Arise."**

May the Lord bless you and your family.

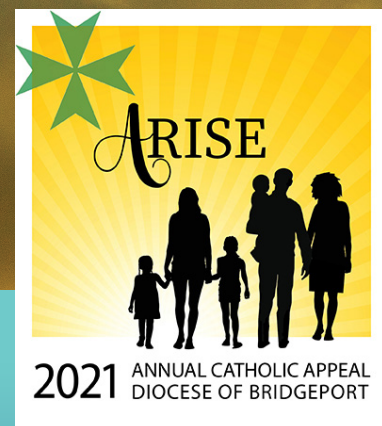
Faithfully in Christ,

**Frank J. Caggiano*

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

THE **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL** FUNDS
A BROAD RANGE OF ESSENTIAL MINISTRIES,
PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES THAT DELIVER
PASTORAL CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES
WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED.

EVERY GIFT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US
TO COME TOGETHER AS A FAMILY OF FAITH
TO SUPPORT DIOCESAN-SPONSORED
PROGRAMS THAT NO SINGLE PARISH
CAN PROVIDE ON ITS OWN.



Providing works of charity, formation
in faith, education and catechesis.



Charity and Pastoral Services



*Serving with dignity and love
those who have nowhere else to turn ...*

- The Annual Catholic Appeal supports Catholic Charities programs that serve the poor and most vulnerable members of our community through nutrition outreach that feeds the hungry and homebound, shelters the homeless, counsels the mentally ill, assists immigrants and strengthens individuals and families.
- Priests, Deacons and Religious Sisters provide pastoral ministry to the sick and elderly in nursing homes and hospitals.
- The Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs cares for and educates individuals with disabilities.

*Whatever you did for one
of these least brothers of mine,
you did for me.*

— Matthew 25:40

Faith and Ministry

*Celebrating the gift of the Eucharist
in our lives and parishes...*



The Annual Catholic Appeal is a celebration of faith by funding evangelization and ministry efforts that ensure the vitality of our Catholic faith.

- The Leadership Institute provides for sacramental preparation, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), in addition to new online programs for marriage formation, and an enrichment series on the various stages of married life, called **True Love That Lasts**; Resources, webinars and video programs for bereavement, **Mourning in the Pandemic**; an Easter program in English and Spanish for in-home formation; and conversations on race.
- Seminarians discern their vocation while receiving formation at seminaries chosen by the Bishop, including the **Redemptoris Mater** Diocesan Missionary Seminary of Bridgeport.
- A call to Eucharistic renewal will include new adult faith formation courses, Centers of Mercy and Eucharistic Adoration, and new pastoral centers that will focus on family life, entrepreneurship for young adults, evangelization, and Catholic culture.
- Elderly priests living at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence receive care in their retirement.
- Mass is celebrated in 15 languages, programs support ethnic ministries, and financial assistance is provided for parishes with exceptional needs.





Education and Catechesis

*Faith-based learning communities
of academic excellence...*



The Diocese of Bridgeport educates students who will steward their God-given gifts to understand, express, create and ultimately serve as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Enhanced strategy for academic excellence for students and ongoing professional development for educators ensuring best practices for Catholic education.
- Over 4,600 students in all 19 diocesan elementary schools receive excellent personalized instruction through cutting-edge technology and faith-based moral development to achieve academic and personal goals.
- The Bishop's Scholarship Fund provides over 1,000 students with tuition assistance at diocesan elementary schools who could not otherwise afford a Catholic education in Fairfield County.
- The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport serves the inner-city elementary schools in a faith-based learning environment.
- More than \$89,791,381 in college scholarships was awarded to 585 graduating seniors from our diocesan schools, with a 100% graduation rate year after year.
- The Fairfield County Catholic newspaper, and social and digital media provides current news stories and events at the local and international levels.



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL CHAIR COUPLE

Roxanne and Jason Melaragno, Parishoners,
The Parish of Holy Family and St. Emery, Fairfield

“ I am extremely grateful for the generosity of the faithful to the Diocese of Bridgeport who donate to the Annual Catholic Appeal. They are supporting my vocation to the priesthood as well as the vocations of my brother seminarians. They are investing in the future of the Church; we pray for all those who support the Appeal, fully recognizing that it would be impossible to carry out the ministries in our diocese and in particular our vocational studies and formation. **”**

**GUILLERMO JIMÉNEZ,
SEMINARIAN**

**PONTIFICAL NORTH
AMERICAN COLLEGE**



GOAL - \$8,100,000 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN 2021

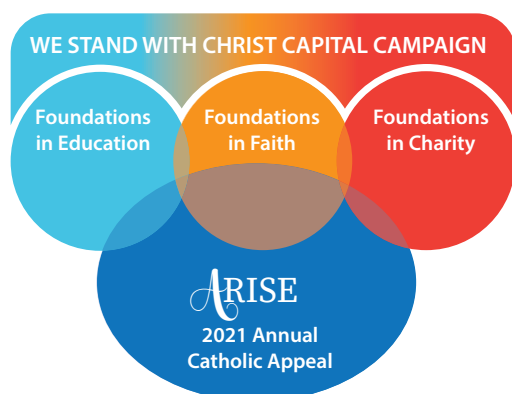


Each year, the Diocese of Bridgeport assesses its financial resources, the needs of parishioners and its ability to respond effectively and with compassion. The following list is an overview of how Appeal contributions will be distributed.

FAITH AND MINISTRY	\$3,841,000
• Catholic Leadership Institute and Faith Formation	\$ 477,000
• Formation of Priests and Deacons	\$ 1,417,000
• Eucharistic Call to Renewal.....	\$ 100,000
• Pastoral Care of Retired Priests	\$ 1,622,000
• Mission Parishes.....	\$ 125,000
• Pastoral Centers	\$ 100,000
EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS	\$1,972,000
• Bishop Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 700,000
• Catholic Academies of Bridgeport.....	\$ 400,000
• Youth.....	\$ 215,000
• Communications	\$ 657,000
CHARITY AND PASTORAL SERVICES	\$1,712,000
• Catholic Charities of Fairfield County	\$ 550,000
• Pastoral Care of Sick and Elderly.....	\$ 912,000
• St. Catherine Center for Special Needs.....	\$ 250,000
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 575,000
Total ACA Goal Allocation	\$8,100,000

In the spirit of financial transparency, the cost to conduct the Annual Catholic Appeal totals 7 cents on the dollar based on the 2021 ACA goal. Fundraising expenses may also provide additional support to a number of these areas.

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT FUNDING MODEL



We Stand With Christ Capital Campaign \$75 Million Goal

Gifts invested provide for the future of the Church through endowments in three foundations strategically aligned for long-term funding and sustainability.

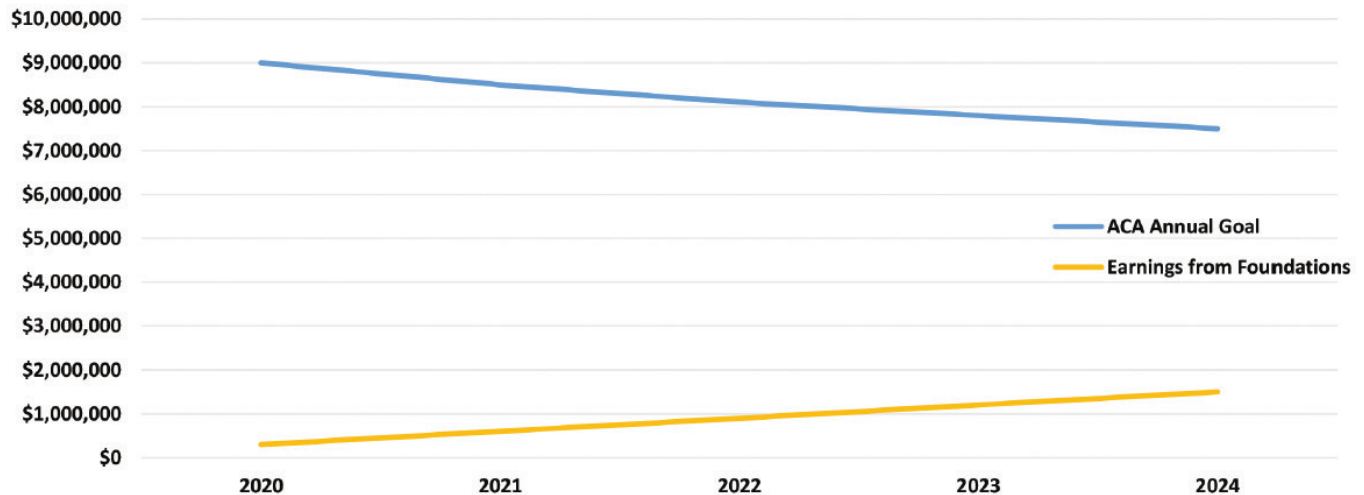
**50% directly benefits parishes,
50% invested in the foundations**

ARISE 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal \$8.1 Million Goal

Gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal support day-to-day ministries and programs

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND THE ANNUAL APPEAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Earnings generated from the three foundation endowments will assist in reducing the overall Annual Catholic Appeal goal in future years.



Ways to Give

When contemplating your level of sacrificial giving, please consider using the Pledge Plan. Pledging will allow a greater sacrifice by extending the payment of your gift through December 31, 2021.

CHECK

Make payable to the **Annual Catholic Appeal**.
Please do not send cash.

CREDIT CARD

Payable online or by pledge card.

ONLINE GIVING

2021ACABridgeport.com.

TEXT TO GIVE

To make a gift via text messaging, text the word **APPEAL** to (475) 241-7849. Msg&Data Rates May Apply.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities and Schools, and the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. 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.



Court of Honor

Recognizes donors who have demonstrated 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)
- St. Teresa of Calcutta Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)
- St. Katharine Drexel Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
- Court of Honor Partner (\$2,500-\$4,999)

For more information please visit the website at 2021ACABridgeport.com, call (203) 416-1470 or email 2021ACA@diobpt.org.