



My Dear Friends in Christ,

**"One in Christ"** is the theme of the **2023 Bishop's Appeal**, and I believe this message is more important than ever as we work toward unity in our Church and in our society. In that spirit, I ask you to consider the many ways the Appeal unites the diocese in service, compassion, and faith.

All of the good works we perform are accomplished in the name of Christ and are expressions of our oneness in Him. As we work toward the renewal of the diocese, our task is nothing less than to invite people into the mystical Body of Christ by creating welcoming, vital and loving communities of faith. The Bishop's Appeal is an important vehicle to make that possible, by advancing our mission of engagement and accompaniment.

This year's Appeal goal of **\$8.1 million** remains unchanged from last year. Thank you for your past support for our programs and ministries, and all you do for your parish, other families and those you may never meet. It is with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation that I once again ask for your generous support of the 2023 Bishop's Appeal.

In this year of Eucharistic Revival, please join in an effort that heals wounds, gives us hope, and brings us together as one family in Christ. May Our Lord bless you always, and be assured that you and your loved ones are remembered in my daily prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Frank J. Caggiano*

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

## Ways to Give

When contemplating your level of sacrificial giving, please consider using the Pledge Plan or making a recurring monthly gift. Pledging will allow a greater sacrifice by extending the payment of your gift through December 31, 2023.

### CHECK

Make payable to the Bishop's Appeal.  
Please do not send cash.

### CREDIT CARD

Payable online or by pledge card.

### ONLINE GIVING

[2023BishopsAppeal.org](https://2023BishopsAppeal.org)



### TEXT TO GIVE

To make a gift via text messaging, text the word APPEAL to (475) 241-7849. Message & data rates may apply.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities of Fairfield County 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.



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



## Court of Honor

Recognizes donors who have demonstrated extraordinary generosity to the Bishop's 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 [2023BishopsAppeal.org](https://2023BishopsAppeal.org), call (203) 416-1470 or email [2023BishopsAppeal@diobpt.org](mailto:2023BishopsAppeal@diobpt.org).



# Investing in...

## Teaching and Preaching the Gospel

**The Institute for Catholic Formation** provides opportunities for all to learn more about their faith, and specifically for ministry leaders to grow in their awareness and ability to accompany others. The Institute is also the home to diocesan marriage formation, sacramental preparation, and the Ambassador Program.

Opportunities for discipleship are essential to keeping **middle school and high school students** involved in their faith. The Institute provides mentoring for parish leaders and guidance to faith communities to make sure young people stay connected to the life, mission and ministry of our parishes.

**World Youth Day** will take place in Lisbon, Portugal and bring hope to young people in our Diocese, along with hundreds of thousands of others who are committing their lives to Christ.

On average, each year the **Bishop's Scholarship Fund** provides 1,300 students with tuition assistance at diocesan Catholic elementary schools, transforming students' lives across Fairfield County.

Tuition assistance is provided to inner-city students in need at the **Catholic Academy of Bridgeport**.

Seminarians are educated and discern their calling in preparation for the priesthood at **St. Charles Borromeo Seminary** in Philadelphia; **St. Joseph Seminary** in Yonkers; **St. John XXIII Seminary** in Weston, MA; and **Redemptoris Mater Seminary** in Stamford.

**Priests** are provided with ongoing development through graduate studies in canon law, liturgy, music, Church history and other areas.

**Deacons** share their gifts of faith, hope and love in bringing people closer to Christ in parish communities and ministries. Your gift supports training for men in formation to the Diaconate.

## Serving Our Community

**Catholic Charities** helps the needy and most vulnerable of all faiths to permanently improve their lives by providing supportive services that enable families to rise up out of poverty, overcome barriers, and achieve self-sufficiency and independence. We envision a Fairfield County where all individuals have the basic necessities – food, shelter, and support – in order to reach their full potential as healthy, educated, and self-reliant individuals.

**Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs** provides academic, spiritual and life skill programs for children and adults with disabilities.

**Priests and Deacons** provide pastoral care for the sick and elderly in nursing homes and hospitals.



## Together in Faith

**"The Bridge" Center for Young Adult Entrepreneurship** provides resources and mentorship to young adults as they make an impact on their local communities. The **Life Center** and the **St. John Paul II Evangelizing Communication Center** offer new paths of encounter to Christ for everyone to learn and grow in their faith and in a variety of disciplines.

**The Ambassador Program** is an invitational ministry. Ambassadors invite Catholics to a greater involvement in the life of their parishes, attendance at Sunday Mass and, if needed they offer personal accompaniment to address those issues that are stumbling blocks to active participation in the life of the Church.

**The Sacred Heart Guild** exists to promote and foster Beauty in the Arts by inspiring an encounter with Christ through pilgrimages, workshops, concerts and talks organized under four 'pillars'; Sacred Music, Art, Sacred Architecture and Literature. The Guild focuses on the needs of young people in our diocese and seeks to model the 'art of the possible' in promoting authentic Catholic culture, broadly understood.

Parishes that are pastorally vibrant and experiencing financial challenges receive **emergency assistance**.

**The Seton Collaborative** provides operational support in the areas of IT, finance and shared services to allow pastors and school leadership to focus their resources and talents on ministry and education of our parishioners and students.

Retired priests receive ongoing health care, and those living at the **Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence** in Stamford reside in a comfortable and prayerful living environment.