

Living Our Faith

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
James 2:18

2023 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



Assistance for Catholic Education

In the most difficult times during the pandemic, Catholic schools shined brightly. They never closed and they re-opened campuses for in-person instruction a full year before most public schools in our region were able to do so. The staff, teachers and administrators worked tirelessly and creatively to make a safe environment where the students could learn to their full potential and begin to reclaim their normal lives.

Those efforts are paying off.

Recent national test scores show that students at Catholic schools in our diocese are performing at higher levels than their counterparts in public and charter schools.

Families are noticing, too.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, enrollment increased by nearly 15 percent at local Catholic elementary schools and by more than 4 percent at high schools.

A Catholic education is much more than test scores, however.

Teachers and staff treat students like family, instilling Catholic values of love, respect for all life, service and peace.

The Annual Catholic Appeal helps our schools to continue to offer students a quality education while nurturing their spiritual growth, strengthening our families, our Church, and our society.

One mother who left public school and enrolled her three children in one of our Catholic schools told us: "We love — love — our new school. The experience has been amazing."

Our Response as Stewards

REFLECT — On the many gifts you have received from God, including your financial blessings.

PRAY — About how God wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

RESPOND — By supporting the mission. You can give at your parish or online at giving.sdcatholic.org.



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Assistance
for



Catholic
Charities

DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

Catholic Charities exists to provide food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, and help for individuals and families in need, whatever their religious or national origin. Our purpose is to be the Good Samaritan, to welcome the stranger and give hope to those facing the darkest of times.

The organization has responded to the greatest social challenges in recent memory swiftly, compassionately and cost-effectively.

It launched the Emergency Food Distribution Network in April 2020, days after a pandemic shutdown began, and continues to feed those facing hunger across San Diego and Imperial Counties.

As the homeless crisis deepened, the organization built a day center to serve up to 200 homeless men and women in El Centro, the first facility of its kind in Imperial County. In San Diego, meanwhile, it opened Rachel's Promise, a 40-bed shelter designed for homeless women with deep needs.

Along the California-Mexico border, the organization is leading the effort to receive immigrants who have applied for asylum and are legally in the country, to help them reach their final destination. And it's expanded its operation to resettle refugees fleeing war, violence or persecution.

The agency has lived our faith for a century, caring for the most vulnerable in our midst. The Annual Catholic Appeal sustains that mission.

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Care of Retired Priests

When a diocesan priest is ordained, he makes a lifelong commitment to serve the needs of the faithful in our diocese, typically serving 40 to 45 years in ministry. In return, the diocese makes a commitment to the priest to provide for his basic well-being during his lifetime, including retirement. We currently care for 47 retired priests.

Everyone is aware of the need to appropriately provide for the spiritual, material, and medical needs during their senior years. Priests have the same concerns. They want to have a certain level of confidence that someone will attend to the nurturing of their faith, helping them find an appropriate physical environment, and assist them when their bodies or minds decline with the passage of time. We play an important part in adding to their sense of security about their senior years.

The normal retirement age for a priest in our diocese is at age 75. Retirement costs including insurance, healthcare, prescription drugs, skilled nursing care, and housing and sustenance continue to escalate.

Our retired priests have a profound trust in the Lord and His Holy Mother; they have a profound trust in the gratitude and generosity of the people of the diocese. They rely on the Lord and His people to sustain them in their senior years. As age and physical ability permit, they continue to witness the love of God. They continue to live a life of prayer and sacramental participation.

The Annual Catholic Appeal supports care of retired priests so that they can live in dignity, and free of anxiety about their means of support. This includes providing health and auto insurance, nursing care at Nazareth House San Diego if needed, supplementing their pension when necessary, and covering expenses for them to attend the annual convocation of priests.

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