

An Accountability Report for the **2020**

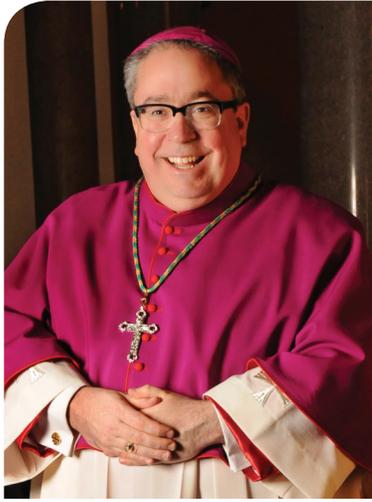
ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



A Report on Gifts to the 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is one of the primary sources of support for agencies and ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth that provide for the physical, educational and spiritual needs of people throughout the 28 counties of North Central Texas. Gifts made to the 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal provided \$3.5 million in essential support for parishes, schools and diverse ministries during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020. The following report shows how gifts to this campaign helped extend the grace and goodness of the Lord across the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, through the generosity of 11,323 families, the Annual Diocesan Appeal raised \$3,520,082.

On behalf of all of those Diocesan programs sustained by this campaign and those who benefit from their services, I thank you for your generous support and trust. Your ongoing commitment to our Annual Diocesan Appeal

ensures that our community of faith will remain committed to promoting the healing, teaching and redeeming presence of our Savior throughout the 28 counties of North Central Texas.

While there is much to celebrate, considering the phenomenal success of this campaign, there still remains much to be done. As the needs of the people served by the various ministries and programs of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth continue to grow, so too must the ministries that meet the needs of those people seeking spiritual and physical solace.

When I consider our Annual Diocesan Appeal, I am reminded of the passage from the twelfth chapter of Luke's Gospel:

"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

At the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, we receive, with great gratitude, each gift in support of this campaign. We also realize, however, that you are presented with many opportunities to support other worthy charitable causes. Be assured that when you choose to support us, we understand clearly, that we are responsible for the judicious stewardship of each and every dollar collected for the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

This year, in full understanding of our responsibility to you, our generous supporters, and those who benefit from services offered by supported ministries and programs, we have included a year-end report highlighting the ministries served by the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Additionally, should you have any questions regarding any of the material in this annual report, I would encourage you to contact our Advancement Foundation at 817-945-9441.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support,

+ Michael F. Olson

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



Committed to the Mission of Christ

With eight different locations throughout North Central Texas, **Campus Ministry** provided students with bible studies, support, Mass, social events, retreats and other activities.

Caring for those who faithfully served the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, the **Priest Care Fund** provided medical and long-term care above and beyond what is covered by insurance for retired and infirm priests.

Spanning 14 different state, county and federal sites, **Prison Ministry** served the spiritual and religious needs of Catholic inmates, as well as those interested in the Catholic faith.

Attentive to the needs of so many situations, **Marriage and Family Life Ministry** assisted couples wishing to marry in the Church, supported struggling marriages, strengthened families and provided healing for those divorced or grieving.

Offering a range of different programs, **Stewardship Education** guided individuals and parishes in helping the faithful to live out their unique call as disciples of Christ.

Faith formation and **outreach ministries** in 29 rural parishes were supported through Annual Diocesan Appeal **Parish Operating Grants**.



Catholic Charities Fort Worth

For 110 years, **Catholic Charities Fort Worth** has been called by the gospel to be the hands and feet of God, helping individuals and families find freedom from poverty. Through services from Catholic Charities Fort Worth, more than 200 families left poverty behind for good by reaching the four out-of-poverty metrics: earning a living wage, having no inappropriate debt, establishing savings accounts and savings behaviors and being free of government assistance.

- Through **Stay the Course**[®], 270 students persisted in school, 27 completed an associates degree and nine reached all four of the above noted out-of-poverty metrics.
- **Refugee-focused poverty solutions** served 72 families, guided five out of poverty and helped 22 reach a living wage.

- The **Gabriel Project** served 397 new or soon-to-be moms and enrolled 136 new clients.
- **Rural Vocations** served 390 students with an 80% persistence rate, resulting in 82 students graduating.
- The **Northwest Campus in Wichita Falls** engaged 56 clients in out-of-poverty solutions through **Community Connections**.
- Through **Parish Social Ministries**, Catholic Charities Fort Worth supported the outreach efforts of parishes throughout the Diocese and directly supported clients they referred.

Office of Vocations

The Office of Vocations promotes priesthood, religious life and the permanent diaconate, and oversees the formation of future priests to serve the pastoral needs of the Diocese.

The ministry of the Office of Vocations is to call forth faithful, generous and service-oriented men and women who are called by God to serve as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers for the people of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. Priests are necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Catholic faith. Religious sisters and brothers are leaders in the areas of education to our youth and service to the poor, elderly and incarcerated.

Effectively promoting vocations to men and women is often challenging, as the predominant values of popular culture, those that equate 'success' with financial wealth and self promotion, are often at odds with the core values of service to others and simplicity that are essential to those who serve as priests, deacons and religious. Identifying those men and women who are willing to make profound sacrifices to serve those in need and to provide leadership to the many ministries, programs and parishes within the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, however, is essential in ensuring the long term vitality of the Church.

In 2019-20, 30 **Seminarians** were discerning a life of ordained service for the Diocese of Fort Worth. These men were in formation in seminaries throughout the United States including St. Joseph's Seminary (Louisiana), Catholic University of America (District of Columbia) and Assumption Seminary (Texas). The year was highlighted by the ordinations of six of these men to the transitional diaconate and one man - Reverend Pedro Martinez - to the priesthood.

The Diocese of Fort Worth has 44 men in various stages of formation for the **Permanent Diaconate**, including 24 who will be ordained in August 2020.

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Fort Worth

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Fort Worth provide a gospel-based education for the spiritual, intellectual and emotional development of children within the 28 counties of North Central Texas.

In a 2005 statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium," the bishops wrote:

"Young people of the third millennium must be a source of energy and leadership in our Church and our nation. Therefore, we must provide young people with an academically rigorous and doctrinally sound program of education and faith formation designed to strengthen their union with Christ and his Church."

"By equipping our young people with a sound education, rooted in the Gospel message, the Person of Jesus Christ and rich in the cherished traditions and liturgical practices of our faith, we ensure that they have the foundation to live morally and uprightly in our complex modern world."

In 2019-20, nineteen schools both embodied this commitment to academic excellence and continued a 50-year tradition of Catholic education in the Diocese of Fort Worth by providing an academically rigorous and doctrinally sound preparation that our young people, Church and community require.

Students who attended the elementary or high schools within the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth participated within a rich learning environment that inspired high academic achievement:

Students Attending Diocesan Elementary or Secondary Schools Who Meet or Exceed State Standards

Diocesan Reported Passing Rates

Elementary English Language Arts	87%
Elementary Mathematics	92%
Intermediate English Language Arts	83%
Intermediate Mathematics	70%
High School English Regents	86%
High School Mathematics Regents	88%
High School US History Regents	87%

An essential component of Catholic education is assuring the dynamic moral development of each student. Participating within such a learning environment, students who attend elementary and secondary schools within the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth gained a firm commitment to serving the communities in which they live and participated in a significant number of service projects including feeding the hungry, visiting the elderly and infirm, providing clothing for those in need and responding to local, national and global disasters.

Our system of Catholic education within the Diocese of Fort Worth enrolled more than 4,500 students whose hearts and minds were formed through the dedicated service of more than 400 faculty and staff. Additionally, more than 20,000 young people were formed in the faith through our parish-based programs of religious education.



2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal at a Glance

\$3,520,082 raised

11,323 participating households

\$315.34 average gift

31 parishes achieved assigned goals

29 parishes received operating grants totaling \$873,000

8 schools received operating grants totaling \$178,000

19 schools received tuition assistance totaling \$250,000

\$450,000 to Catholic Charities Fort Worth

\$2,125,082 awarded to seminarians, deacon formation, marriage and family life, stewardship education, campus ministry, prison ministry

Ways to Give



By Mail

Complete the commitment form you receive in the mail and return it with your payment to:

Advancement Foundation

800 W Loop 820 S
Fort Worth TX 76108

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.



Online

Visit our secure online giving site at bit.ly/ADADonate



At Your Parish

Pass in your envelope during Commitment Weekend

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