

DECEMBER | 2017

A monthly update
about the Annual
Diocesan Appeal for the
Diocese of Fort Worth

Faith HOPE Charity



Annual Diocesan Appeal Supports the Least Among Us

This year, \$450,000 of the dollars you donate to the Annual Diocesan Appeal enable Catholic Charities to provide programs to end the cycle of poverty and to create a culture of life. *Read more on reverse side.*



“When we reach out and help the poor through Catholic Charities, when we help one person, we also recognize and help to change and transform and save their family, that they can carry out the responsibility of the family life as well as receive the benefit that is part of family life for each and every one of us.”

Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, Bishop of Fort Worth

Year End Gifts
Must Be
Postmarked by
Dec. 31

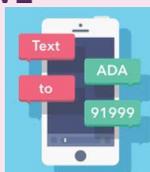
PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL

Through November 30, Annual Diocesan Appeal commitments are \$2,554,145 from 9,615 families. Thank you for your support.

www.bit.ly/AnnualDiocesanAppeal

TEXT TO GIVE

Make your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal securely from your smartphone. Text ADA to 91999.



MAKE IT MONTHLY

Set your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal to draft Monthly from your checking account or credit card. Text SFC to 91999 to join the St. Francis Circle or contact Dianna Rhoads.



QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION?

Dianna Rhoads, 817-945-9463
drhoads@advancementfoundation.org

INQUIRIES ABOUT THE APPEAL

Renée Underwood, 817-945-9441
runderwood@advancementfoundation.org



YOU REACH OUT

In Love and Justice

By assisting low-income students to complete college through Catholic Charities' Rural Vocation and *Stay the Course™* partnerships.

If someone from a low-income background completes college, they have a 90 percent chance of bettering their economic situation.

The Rural Vocation program is designed to provide eligible students comprehensive support services to address problems that could impact the students' ability to successfully complete their education. In partnership with community colleges throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth, staff members from Catholic Charities work one-on-one with students to help them manage obstacles, access financial assistance, and create a path that helps each student make it to graduation. The program considers every factor that keeps someone from graduating – from reduced income to loss of household to medical emergencies – and providing social support that helps them succeed. Finally, the program also provides professional skills development, post-educational job placement, and retention support.

After initial success at community colleges in Tarrant, Wichita and Young Counties, Catholic Charities is implementing a plan to expand these services to 14 additional campuses throughout the Diocese within the next ten years, giving Catholic Charities a “bricks and mortar” presence in all eight deaneries of the Diocese.

In conjunction with the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame, Catholic Charities is also using research to prove that these services really make a difference in helping low-income students persist in community college and complete their degrees. The *Stay the Course™* program evaluates the intervention on two Tarrant County College campuses, and results show that *Stay the Course™* students are two times more likely to stay in school, and female students are four times more likely to persist in their education.

“We are grateful for the support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal from the outset of this innovative program,” says John Moragues, MSSW, education specialist for Catholic Charities. If you would like more information about this initiative that is creating economic opportunities for low-income families, please contact Laura Sotelo at lsotelo@ccdofw.org.

Goal BUSTERS

Through November 30, \$2,554,145 or 77% of the \$3.3 million Diocesan goal for the Appeal has been committed by 9,615 households.

Seventeen parishes have reached – and continue to surpass – their commitment goals to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Four of those achieved this milestone during November as indicated in orange. Does your parish have at least 85 percent of its goal committed by now?

- Holy Rosary, Cisco, 196.41%
- St. John, Strawn, 191.88%
- St. Jerome, Bowie, 183.77%
- Sacred Heart, Seymour, 172.78%
- St. Francis Xavier, Eastland, 169.75%
- St. Joseph, Cleburne, 154.35%
- St. Rita, Ranger, 136.92%
- St. Boniface, Scotland, 131.00%
- Jesus of Nazareth, Albany, 127.33%
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe, De Leon, 127.14%**
- St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, 122.70%
- St. Maria Goretti, Arlington, 117.37%
- St. Martin de Porres, Prosper, 116.52%
- **St. John the Baptizer, Bridgeport, 115.25%**
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 113.93%
- **St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, 103.44%**
- **Holy Cross, The Colony, 102.88%**



Important Information about 2017 Year End Giving and Tax Deductions

The Catholic Center (Diocesan Pastoral and Administrative Offices) will be closed for business from Friday, December 22, 2017 through Monday, January 1, 2018. Contact by phone and email regarding year-end giving is available to donors at 817-945-9441 or YearEndGiving@advancementfoundation.org. Messages will be monitored and returned as soon as possible. There is also a mail slot accessible at the front entrance to the Catholic Center (800 W. Loop 820 S., Fort Worth TX 76108) for hand-delivered gifts.

- In order to be credited as a donation in the 2017 tax year, checks must be dated and mailed with a postmark on or before Sunday, December 31, 2017.
- Credit card gifts are effective on the date the card is charged.
- Electronic funds transfer is effective on the date of the transfer.
- Stocks transferred electronically are effective on the date of transfer.

For more information about 2017 year-end giving to the Annual Diocesan Appeal for the Diocese of Fort Worth visit www.advancementfoundation.org.