



NEW INITIATIVES – Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, World Youth Day, Strategic and Pastoral Planning

The Bishop’s Scholarship Fund is a permanent fund designed to provide tuition assistance on an annual basis for deserving students. Tuition assistance will be available beginning this year for students who attend our 29 diocesan-sponsored Catholic elementary schools and in 2016 for students who attend the five Catholic high schools as well.

As many as 300 young people from our diocese will travel to Krakow, Poland to participate in World Youth Day 2016 with our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Ongoing implementation and development of strategic pastoral plans that will lead to financial viability and spiritual vitality in the parishes and schools in the diocese.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
GOAL ALLOCATION \$11,000,000**

Formation of Priests and Deacons	\$ 1,757,000
Clergy Ministries	\$ 1,266,000
Catholic Charities.....	\$ 1,250,000
Catholic Schools	\$ 1,120,000
Care of Retired Priests	\$ 1,050,000
Pastoral Services	\$ 1,025,000
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport.....	\$ 667,000
Communications	\$ 600,000
New Initiatives – Bishop’s Scholarship Fund, World Youth Day and Strategic Pastoral Planning	\$ 550,000
Finance and Accounting Support for Parishes	\$ 310,000
Pastoral Care of the Sick	\$ 275,000

In the spirit of financial transparency, the cost to conduct the Annual Catholic Appeal totals less than 9 cents on the dollar based on the 2015 ACA goal.

COURT OF HONOR

Bishop Caggiano established the Court of Honor to recognize Catholics who have demonstrated their 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.

YOUR FAITH IN ACTION

When thinking about your gift, please consider the pledge plan. Pledging will allow a greater sacrifice by extending the payment of your gift through December 31, 2015.

You may make your pledge or outright gift by check or credit card. Checks may be made payable to the Annual Catholic Appeal. A credit card gift may be payable online.

You may also wish to consider these other options to contribute to the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal:

ONLINE GIVING - 2015ACAbriageport.com.

MATCHING GIFTS - Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities and Catholic Schools. Please contact the Appeal office at 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 call 203-416-1470 for more information.

For more information please email: 2015ACA@diobpt.org or call: 203-416-1470.



**2015 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT**



Give online:
www.2015ACAbriageport.com



Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous support of the work of our Diocese of Bridgeport.

Through your sacrificial gift to the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal “Building Communities of Faith” and those of thousands of other Catholics throughout Fairfield County, our children are educated in the faith, the poor and disadvantaged are helped with the basic necessities of life, our retired priests are cared for, our seminarians are trained and our parishes are strengthened.

This brochure explains the good works of the diocese that the Appeal supports. I encourage you to read it and reflect upon God’s many gifts to you. Most especially, I ask for your prayerful support of the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal.

May God bless you and your family,

Sincerely in Christ,

**Frank Caggiano*

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Diocese of Bridgeport is blessed with twenty-nine elementary schools, five secondary schools and Saint Catherine Academy for young people with special needs. Our schools are communities where the Catholic faith is taught and lived in an atmosphere of academic excellence.

SUPPORTING INNER-CITY SCHOOLS

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport provides elementary school children with an academically excellent education, discipline and Christian values. Tuition assistance and scholarships are available to more than 65% of students. Most of our elementary school students continue on to diocesan Catholic high schools, where last year 100% of the students graduated.

FOSTERING VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Our 24 seminarians are engaged in continuing discernment to heed the call to serve God and His people. Each seminarian receives a comprehensive education that is rich and diverse in spiritual, theological, and academic disciplines in preparation for their priesthood.

Our diocese is also blessed by the dedication of our religious Sisters who serve in our schools, parishes, nursing homes and numerous other ministries.

CONTINUING CLERGY & RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Ongoing spiritual formation and professional development through Clergy Ministries equips priests, deacons and religious Sisters to carry out their vocations.

CARING FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

The Appeal supports 59 retired priests, including 17 who reside at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Retired Priests’ Residence.

TRAINING CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The Permanent Diaconate Formation Program prepares laymen spiritually, academically, intellectually and pastorally to serve the Lord in a sacramental way. There are now 91 permanent deacons, 12 men in formation and 12 who have applied to the Class of 2020.

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL THROUGH FAITH FORMATION

Religious formation serves as the foundation for spreading the faith in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Over 38,000 children participate in religious education programs in the diocese which foster the knowledge, experiences, and skills necessary to become faithful disciples of Christ. Adult religious education instruction is also available.

Marriage and family preparation, along with family conferences and divorce support, are available. Respect Life programs are dedicated to preserving the sanctity of human life.

Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs centralizes pastoral and educational support for individuals with special needs. This new Center allows persons with special needs to fully participate in the life of the Church.

The diocese provides opportunities for young people to encounter Christ and live as disciples through the High School Apostles Leadership Program; CONVIVIO Youth Congress; March For Life pilgrimage, Annual Prom Dress Drive and Catholic Scouting.

BRINGING HEALING AND HOPE TO THE LESS FORTUNATE

Answering Christ’s call to care for the “least among us,” Catholic Charities responds through a comprehensive network of 35 ministries.

Sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, counseling the troubled, attending to the elderly, infirm, disabled and incarcerated, assisting newly-arrived immigrants, all are made possible through Annual Catholic Appeal funding.

