

Ministry Descriptions

Following is a description of many of the ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal:

Catholic Education

Our **Catholic Schools** serve more than 10,000 students each day. Our schools are characterized by five words – *Believe; Learn; Serve; Lead; Succeed* - describing the mission and ministry of almost 900 educators each day in 36 Catholic pre, elementary, and high schools. Our students pray, learn, and celebrate the faith daily enhanced by regular opportunities for worship and service and receive an outstanding education with 99% continuing their studies in colleges, universities, or other post-secondary programs.

The **Office of Religious Education** functions as a resource to parishes to promote the catechetical ministry as articulated by our Bishop. The Office supports ongoing spiritual and professional development for parish DRE's, catechists, and parents serving more than 10,000 students per year in 52 Religious Education programs throughout the diocese.

Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry is committed to developing Christian values in young people through programs that catechize, evangelize, and promote social justice through service in addition to the practice of good sportsmanship through CYM sports. Programs like March for Life, Youth Leadership Team, and the annual Youth Pilgrimage help to empower young people for leadership with their peers, in their schools, in the Church and their community at large.

The **Office for Marriage and Family Life** provides Catholic formational and informational programs for parishes, couples, and families. Pre-Cana classes prepare engaged couples for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Other programs address topics such as Remarriage, blended families, Natural Family Planning, Miscarriage and Loss of a Child through our FootPrints Ministry - Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and Retrouvaille. The Office also facilitates various events supporting marriage and family goals such as World Marriage Day and the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass.

Special Needs Ministry offers religious formation programs for children, youth and adults and helps individuals prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Through Special Needs Ministry, the diocese provides assistance and consultation to parishes to help them offer an inclusive environment to support special needs programs on their local level.

Catholic Campus Ministry provides a faith community which serves as the students' parish family while they study at a college or university within the diocese. Prayer services, retreats, faith formation, leadership and ministry training, service opportunities, ecumenical fellowship, social events, and spiritual direction are offered depending upon interest and resources. Mass is celebrated weekly either on campus or in the parish of the college or university.

Deaf Ministry offers sacramental and spiritual support and nourishment to those in the hearing impaired community. A signed mass is now offered bi-monthly and interpreted (ASL) masses are held each Sunday in at least one diocesan location. Particularly, there are interpreters at each Sunday 9:15a.m. Mass held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, in Bear, Delaware.

Pastoral Services

The **Office of Hispanic Ministry** assists parishes and diocesan offices in realizing their mission to Hispanic communities fostering the development of spirituality, community building, social action, and leadership and theological formation. Twenty parishes serve as regional Hispanic Ministry Centers and weekly masses are regularly celebrated in Spanish seasonably at two migrant laborer camps.

The **Office of Pro-Life Activities** provides programs and information to strengthen our witness on issues related to the dignity and value of all human life. The Respect Life Committee works to maintain a united front in the pro-life community by cooperating with pro-life groups like 40 Days for Life, Delaware Right to Life, and advocates for abolishing the death penalty and preventing Physician Assisted Suicide.

Ministry for Black Catholics explores and implements evangelization efforts needed to lift the spirits of Catholics of African Descent and to bring others, both church and unchurched, into the family of the Body of Christ.

Institutional Chaplains put into action the corporal works of mercy by visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes and bringing comfort and reconciliation to the imprisoned and provide spiritual support and guidance to civil service and law-enforcement personnel.

Ordained Deacons serve the diocese through their threefold ministry of liturgy, word and charity. Eighty-eight deacons presently serve in all but six parishes in the diocese. Eight new deacons were ordained in 2017 and nineteen men are presently in their second year of Deacon Formation leading up to ordination in 2021.

Catholic Charities

The many works of **Catholic Charities** provide emergency help to the poor and homeless, thousands of meals each year to the hungry, comfort and support to women with troubled pregnancies, care to children, the sick and the elderly, the handicapped, the addicted and the emotionally afflicted.

Casa San Francisco in Milton, DE provides shelter for up to 12 adults for approximately 30 days, as well as a wide range of services aimed at helping low-income of Sussex County. Shelter residents work with case managers to obtain income and find affordable local housing opportunities. Last year, # persons found shelter at Casa which also operates the largest Food Assistance program in Sussex County.

Bayard House the only licensed residential program in Delaware provides direct client care service to at-risk homeless, pregnant and/or newly parenting adolescents and women. # moms and babies made Bayard House their temporary home last year. Additionally, the Bayard House *Diaper Bank* program, currently serves over # families, makes available diapers to qualifying families six times a year.

Seton Center, a multi-purpose neighborhood community center located in Princess Anne, MD responds to the needs of local residents, the area's Hispanic community, and migrant farm workers by offering a Basic Needs program, Behavioral Health Services, Immigration help and food assistance. Seton Center also provides health screenings, women's support groups, and

information and referral services. Last year Seton Center provided service to over 1,650 individuals.

Catholic Charities' **Food Assistance** food cooperatives and emergency pantries provide a sustainable source of nutritious food to individuals who are at risk of hunger. Cooperatives are located at the Wilmington Thrift Center, the Kent County Office, Casa San Francisco, the Sussex County Office, and Seton Center. Emergency pantries are located at Casa and Seton Center. Casa also operates a Senior Food Distribution program. Last year, over 5,330 persons received food from at least one of Catholic Charities food assistance programs.

The **Immigration Program** assists individuals and families with issues related to their legal status in the United States. Catholic Charities provides service to single adults, families, women with children, and unaccompanied minors who arrive in Delaware. The program provided services to 384 individuals last year.

Thrift Services provides quality used clothing, furniture, appliances, household goods, and mattresses to families with limited income. There are two Thrift Center locations – a large one in Wilmington offering furniture, appliances, and mattresses as well as clothing and small household goods, and a smaller one at Seton Center offering clothing and household goods.

Basic Needs Program assists low-income individuals and families through financial coaching and case management services in addition to providing financial grants for basic living expenses. Households in crisis can work with case managers to achieve economic goals such as create and maintain a household budget, secure employment or a higher-paying job, secure child-care and access health benefits. Last year, the program assisted over 7,000 individuals.

Administration & Communications

The **Office of Public Relations and Media** strives to establish and maintain positive relationships with the secular media. The office distributes news releases, oversees the diocesan website, and produces and distributes radio programs/podcasts with the goal of advancing a greater understanding of the Gospel, the Church and its teachings, diocesan and parish ministries and services and the Bishop's priorities. The Office oversees use of emerging social media such as Facebook and YouTube and consults with other diocesan departments, schools, parishes, and other ministries in the area of internal and external communications and media relations.

The **Office of Safe Environment** ensures the protection and safety of children and youth. The Office is charged with directing and monitoring the policies, guidelines and procedures designed to safeguard an environment of safety for all children and youth in the diocese.

The Dialog, the official newspaper of the Diocese, is distributed 26 times a year through churches to 20,000 parish homes. Its website, www.thedialog.org is also updated daily with diocesan, national and international church news.

The **Tribunal** is an ecclesiastical court established by the Bishop to administer justice according to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church. Most cases heard relate to the validity of marriage in the Catholic Church.