

# assistance for Catholic Education

Our diocese includes a network of many wonderful Catholic schools, educating nearly 15,000 students each year. Most of our schools are in great shape, while other schools truly need our support.

The Annual Catholic Appeal currently provides some funding to 9 schools in need, impacting the lives of over 1,300 students.



This program is called Assistance for Catholic Education. Over the past ten years with the support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, Catholic schools in San Diego have received assistance grants totaling more than five million dollars!

These grants have been made to keep the vital mission of Catholic education both accessible and affordable for children of families living in neighborhoods that have been the most impacted by economic challenges.

“Our entire community will always be grateful for the support we receive from the Annual Catholic Appeal,” said Gina Olsen, principal of St. Rita School. “As an urban school with financial pressures, it helps us support our teachers and, without it, our doors would be closed.”

Bishop McElroy understands the value and mission of our

local Catholic schools. He said, “Our Catholic schools offer an essential element in the formation of touching the mind, heart and the soul of the whole person by giving our students the most important message that any education can give—that God loves them, and that love is without reserve and never waivers.”

## 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 [www.giving.sdcatholic.org](http://www.giving.sdcatholic.org).

# the Joy of Love



*Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.*

*Philemon 1:7*



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# Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is the social service agency that on behalf of each and every Catholic in the diocese assists almost 300,000 people each year by providing a network of important programs and services in San Diego and Imperial Counties.



Refugee Services ▲

Foster Grandparent ▼



▲ Homeless Men's Services

▼ Senior Residential Services



Inspired by Jesus, who “came not to be served but to serve”, Catholic Charities exists to **WITNESS** actively on behalf of the scriptural values of mercy and justice, to acknowledge the sacredness of the human person by working to **ENHANCE** the quality of life of each individual, and to **ADVOCATE** for a just society by calling men and women to action on behalf of the poor.

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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.



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. At present, one-third of our diocesan priests are retired.

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. Our 2 retired bishops and 55 retired priests 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.

*"We are always priests with all our soul and with all our heart. Being an ambassador of Christ ... is a mission that penetrates our entire being."*

— Pope Francis

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