2014 REPORT OF GRATITUDE

...you made the difference.
DEAR CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST:

THIS YEAR, parishioners were asked to support the diocesan Church in two ways. Through the ONE Campaign, we are investing in strategic pastoral priorities that will revitalize the work of the Catholic Church in Northern California. The Annual Catholic Appeal, on the other hand, is an annual tradition that connects us to thousands of individuals and families who need immediate assistance.

Your kindness has brought hope and provided help to our neighbors in need throughout the Diocese of Sacramento. In 2014 nearly 19,000 of you contributed nearly $3 million to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Fifty percent of funds collected went to charitable organizations, helping more than 120,000 people overcome poverty and despair. Twenty-five percent went back to our 102 parishes to respond to local needs. Twenty-five percent helped educate seminarians and provided tuition assistance to Catholic School families in at-risk communities.

May the Lord Jesus make fruitful these efforts to help our brothers and sisters in need. Be assured of my abiding prayers and my gratitude.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento
Every time
a family finds safety and hope...

Promised a better job and a better life, his mom fell victim to labor trafficking. Living in substandard conditions, she eventually found her way to Catholic Charities of Solano. Rental assistance and a network of services helps her continue to rebuild and provide for her family.

...you made the difference.

9,000 people received hope and help through programs of Catholic Charities of Solano.

DEAR FRIENDS:

TO BE A PART OF THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES NETWORK in the Diocese of Sacramento and a mission of faith and encouragement to thousands of people when they need it the most, fills me with awe and gratitude.

“Don’t give up.” “You can do it.” “Never lose hope.” These words of encouragement are sometimes shared with people facing life’s struggles. Whether setbacks are major or minor, it takes courage for someone to stand up and say, “I CAN do this.” Working with children and families over the years, it is amazing to see the transformation that takes place when hope returns. It’s like watching the weather change from winter to spring before your eyes.

Hope fuels the spirit.

It is with tremendous gratitude that I say thank you to the many donors of the Annual Catholic Appeal who have helped to make it possible for our agency to live out the Gospel in service to those in need.

With gratitude,

Cathy Wyatt, LCSW
Executive Director
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service
Every time a stranger finds hope for the future…

Maye, born in a Thai refugee camp, came to Sacramento and faced overwhelming responsibility as the only English speaker in her community. Wellspring Women’s Center provided a childhood and a way into Catholic High School. She now has her Master’s and works to improve conditions for others.

…you made the difference.

2,000 clients received hope and help through Wellspring Women’s Center.

Every time someone could build a life with dignity…

Sherrie, dangerously overweight, wanted to change her poor eating habits: a major challenge with her low income. The Demonstration Garden of Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services helped her grow her own fruits and vegetables and newly-found confidence.

…you made the difference.

902 people gained hope and new skills at the Demonstration Garden of Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.
SUSTAINING HIGH QUALITY Catholic schools that are available to all Catholic youth is a priority for the Diocese of Sacramento. You have made a difference in 2014! Your generosity has provided our schools with the ability to offer tuition assistance to families in our most at-risk communities.

The future of our Church and our country relies on our ability to effectively educate Catholic youth in an environment where our children learn and grow with Christ. As Catholics, we share the obligation to ensure that our youth are prepared to be future leaders in our parish communities. That responsibility starts with education. Each and every day, I experience many of the great things that are happening in our schools. Educating students in an environment where we integrate the Gospel values in everything we do — is simply remarkable.

What’s most special about your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal is the fact that your generosity will impact a student whom you may never meet. Yet you gave anyway — and for that, we are grateful.

With gratitude,

Rick Maya
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

EVERY YEAR, WE FEEL THE BLESSING of new priests being ordained to serve in our parishes.

Now twenty seminarians are preparing themselves to serve God and His Church here in the Diocese of Sacramento. The journey towards priesthood starts with the calling, that is, when an unmarried man feels in his heart the invitation from God to be a priest of Christ. Formation includes four years of college focused in philosophy, two years of theology, a pastoral year (the experience of living in a parish for a school year), and another two years of theology.

Your support has allowed us to once again ensure the preservation of a supportive community for those who have committed themselves to this journey in service to Christ.

I am grateful for the difference you have made to the two who are at college and pre-theology level, the four in pastoral year and fourteen at theology level who, after success in their preparation, will have the opportunity to be ordained to the priesthood and to serve the people in our parishes.

We are all humbled by your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Francisco Hernandez
Director, Office of Vocations

This year, 20 seminarians are studying for priesthood in our diocese. As more priests near retirement age, The Annual Catholic Appeal helps defray the cost of education for new priests and helps assure a supportive community for their spiritual growth and preparation.

...you made the difference.

$35,000 a year is the cost to educate one seminarian. The Appeal offset this growing expense.
Every time a parish helped someone in need...

Volunteers at St. John Vianney Parish, Rancho Cordova help over 5,000 people a month through the Cordova Community Food Locker. Since its modest beginning in 1987, more than one million people have been helped. The parish puts Appeal funds to work in this ministry.

...you made the difference.

102 parishes received a 25% share for their own ministry to local people in need.
Your Annual Catholic Appeal contributions help support Yuba Sutter Right to Life in saving babies’ lives and saving their mothers from the heartache of an abortion decision.

— Maureen Guth
Director

“Thank you for helping Loaves and Fishes reach the milestone of serving our 7,000,000th meal!”

— Sr. Libby Fernandez, RSM, Executive Director

Generous donations are multiplied many times over making it possible for Anderson Cottonwood Christian Assistance to purchase emergency food at significant discounts.” — Deacon Mike Evans, Secretary/Treasurer

“At Wellspring Women’s Center we want you to know that we steward your generous donations carefully providing services that are not duplicated elsewhere in the community.” — Sr. Judy Illig, IBVM, Executive Director

Without this funding, students at needy schools would have no access to critical counseling services provided by Mercy Education Resource Center.

— Terry Anderson
Executive Director

Sacramento Life Center relies 100% on private funding and could not do this work without your help. There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone have the gift of life that we all have been blessed with.”

— Marie Leathersby, Executive Director

“Every day we are all called to become a ‘caress of God’ for those who perhaps have forgotten their first caresses, or perhaps who never have felt a caress in their life.”

Address to Members of St. Peter’s Circle 10.31.13

Pope Francis I
To the agency and parish volunteers who worked an estimated 300,000 hours this year, and the more than 400 staff throughout the Diocese of Sacramento who graced the lives of more than 120,000 people in need:

Thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts in the building of God’s kingdom here in the Diocese of Sacramento.

In memoriam

Don Chapman
1932–2014

In gratitude for 28 years of service to Northern Valley Catholic Social Service in Redding, serving as a member of the Board of Directors, then as Chief Financial Officer, and finally as Executive Director. “There is never going to be another Don Chapman. A giant tree has fallen, the forest isn’t going to be the same.”

– Eulogy by John Kenny
The Annual Catholic Appeal is our annual tradition that connects us to those who need our help every day.

The Annual Catholic Appeal assists nearly 100 social service programs, seminarians training for the priesthood, Catholic school families in our most economically-challenged communities and local parish ministries to people in need.