you made the difference
DEAR CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST:

THANK YOU for your generous and faithful sacrifices that sustain the works of mercy made possible by the Annual Catholic Appeal. Every year I count on my brothers and sisters to give generously. Your kindness has brought hope and provided help to thousands of our neighbors in need throughout Northern California.

In 2015 more than 20,000 of you contributed nearly $3.2 million. Fifty percent of funds collected went to charitable organizations helping more than 200,000 people to overcome poverty and despair. Twenty-five percent went back to your parishes so that a wide variety of needs could be responded to with local care. Twenty-five percent helped with seminarian education and assisted families in at-risk communities with the cost of Catholic school education for their children.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may we all recognize that our generosity flows from God’s abundant mercy towards us. May the Lord Jesus make fruitful these efforts so that we can be missionaries of hope and messengers of mercy to one another. Be assured of my abiding prayers and my gratitude. Together let us implore the intercession of Mary, the Mother of mercy, so that we can worthily share in the mission of her Son, Jesus.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento

“For us as a Catholic community, charity is not just about alleviating poverty, it is sacramental, a sacramental encounter with Christ.”

Every time a child found safety...

Removed from his home, a severely neglected young boy was paired with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) through Northern Valley Catholic Social Service. He was fearful of adults and spoke little for weeks. One day he quietly reached up and took the advocate’s hand. Through the advocate’s work, he eventually rejoined his mother, who overcame drug addiction.

...you made the difference.

20,094 people received hope and help through programs of Northern Valley Catholic Social Service.
Every time
someone regained dignity and hope…

DEAR FRIENDS:

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL CAN BE SEEN SO CLEARLY and beautifully in the good works of Catholic charity programs and ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Every day, while working alongside other men and women of good will, Catholics go out to preach the Gospel of Joy through concrete actions of love: housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, protecting the unborn, and welcoming the stranger. It has been a true blessing for me to experience the efforts of staff and volunteers engaged in service to those on the margins, witnessing to them with joy.

It is with tremendous gratitude that I thank the many donors who have supported the appeal. Your generous gifts of love make it possible for the many amazing ministries and programs of Catholic Charities to continually serve our brothers and sisters in need.

With gratitude,

John Watkins
Director, Office for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns

Victimized by domestic violence, a woman reached out to Catholic Charities of Solano at the urging of someone who knew she'd find respect, a listening ear and a safety net of support. Counseling, help with basic needs and immigration services helped restore dignity and purpose to her life.

...you made the difference.

3,495 people received hope and help through programs of Catholic Charities of Solano.
Every time a teen found courage and strength...

By the time she reached out to Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, a 16 year-old girl had suffered years of physical and mental abuse at home. With social workers sitting beside her, she found the courage to report the abuse to police. She now lives in safety with a family member.

...you made the difference.

900 clients received hope and help through Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center.

Every time someone recovered and now gives back...

Kenneth was on a dangerous path. Through Williams Memorial Baptist Church, he found help with his physical and emotional addictions through Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. He became sober and found the courage to leave the group he was affiliated with. He’s now becoming a Pastor and helps others through his church community outreach program.

...you made the difference.

150,000 people gained hope through Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.
Every time
a family could stay in Catholic School...

Lili and Bence thrive at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Orville, where many families and the parish itself are economically challenged. Their parents are grateful that the generosity of others has allowed moral guidance, prayer and weekly Mass to be part of their children’s school experience.

...you made the difference.
$500,000 helped
families in our most economically-challenged communities to stay in Catholic School.

Dear Friends:

Together, forming God’s children. We remain committed to the formation of the next generation of children in the Diocese of Sacramento in the understanding that they, too, are called to serve. We believe that the Catholic school remains the Church’s most valuable ministry in preparing our youth for continued participation in the sacraments and in service, especially in our most vulnerable communities.

Your generosity in 2015 has made a specific and significant difference for our schools. 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. The Catholic school remains the most effective instrument of witness and catechesis in the lives of our young, and you have chosen to participate in this ministry through your generosity.

We thank God for the opportunity to share in this mission with you, and remain always,

Your fellow servants in Christ,

Lincoln Snyder
Executive Director 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-three 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 three who are at college and pre-theology level, the seven in pastoral year and thirteen 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,

Fr. Jovito Rata
Director, Office of Vocations
Every time a parish helped one more person in need...

When St. Patrick Parish in Placerville began to provide a hot meal to anyone in need of food or companionship, little did they know The Upper Room Dining Hall would become a significant gathering place in the broader community. With help from the parish 25% share, 41,245 meals — and warm welcomes — were served last year.

...you made the difference.

102 parishes received a 25% share for their own ministries to local people in need.
“Thanks to your donations, food pantry doors at the Community Assistance Network remain open to communities in Quincy seeking emergency provisions.”
— Kitty Gay
President, Board of Directors

“At Wellspring Women’s Center, every single moment is memorable. With your gift, we continue to provide respite and services based on hospitality, dignity and love.” — SR. JUDY ILLIG, IBVM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“This year with your support, families and individuals can find a variety of emergency assistance services through St. Vincent de Paul in 23 cities and towns in our Diocese.” — PAUL STARKEY, PRESIDENT

“Your gift is a blessing. Through Yuba Sutter Right to Life, family resource information is made available to the public; saving babies and their moms from the heartache of an abortion decision.” — MAUREEN GUTH, PRESIDENT

“Thanks to your generosity, programs at Stanford Settlement will continue to provide safety and support to at-risk children, youth and seniors in the Northgate-Gardenland neighborhoods.”
— Sr. Jeanne Felion, SSS
Executive Director

“Your donations have allowed vulnerable mothers coming to Mother Teresa Maternity Home to find the transitional support they need to raise a healthy family.” — TOM KOZLOWSKI, TREASURER

“Your partnership with Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home, provides hope and new beginnings for mothers pursuing a path to success.” — LENORE MULARKEY, LIVE IN DIRECTOR

“Thanks to your contributions, refugees and immigrant families fleeing danger and insecure environments are able to find legal resources and care through Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.” — BLAKE YOUNG, PRESIDENT/CEO

“As Christians, you too are called to be like Joseph, to make a home for Jesus.
You make a home for him in your hearts, your families...and your communities.”

POPE FRANCIS
January 17, 2015
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 200,000 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

We honor the memory of the longtime President/CEO of Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home for his steadfast, devoted work on behalf of the many women who lived at the home when they had no place else to go and their babies who were born there.

We give thanks for the life of Dan Delany, Co-Founder of Loaves and Fishes, for his many years of unwavering, resolute activism on behalf of the poor and homeless in Sacramento.

In memoriam

Richard White
1930–2015

Daniel Richard Delany
1934–2015
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.