

2016  
ANNUAL  
CATHOLIC



You made  
the difference  
in Northern  
California



2016  
*Report of  
Gratitude*

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

## 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.

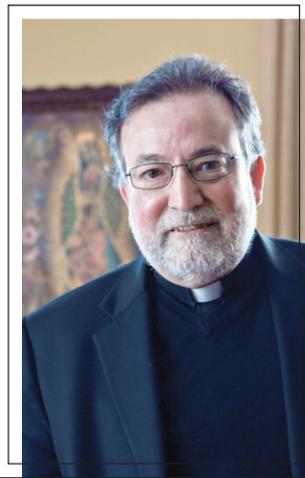
In 2016 more than 24,000 of you contributed nearly \$3.5 million. Fifty percent of funds collected went to charitable organizations helping more than 200,000 people to overcome poverty and despair. Twenty-five percent went back to your parishes so that a wide variety of needs could be responded to with 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.

Now that the Jubilee Year of Mercy has ended, 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 go forth and proclaim the Gospel with our lives.

Respectfully,



+Jaime Soto  
Bishop of Sacramento



*Every time*

a parish helped a family in need...



The Aspera family has come to know and love the volunteers at “Helping Hands,” the St. Vincent de Paul ministry of *St. John the Baptist Parish, Folsom*. Providing rental assistance and access to food and clothing made all the difference. The 25% parish share — and hard-working parishioners — keep it all going.

*...you made the difference.*

**102** parishes

will receive more than \$850,000 for their own ministries to people in need.

*Every time*

someone learned a better way...



Nutrition class at *Catholic Charities of Yolo and Solano* is spirited and informative. For those wanting to make life better for themselves and their families, Matt Green's background in the field of nutrition and his dedication to helping others, is typical of the supportive staff who guide others to a path of increased knowledge and greater independence.

*...you made the difference.*

**4,573** people

received hope and help through programs of Catholic Charities of Yolo and Solano.

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.

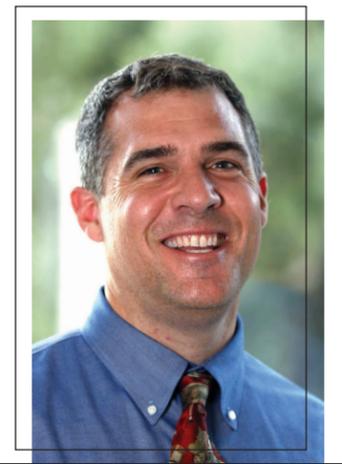
It is with tremendous gratitude that I thank the many donors who have supported the Appeal. Your generous gifts of love make it possible for the many amazing ministries and programs of Catholic Charities to continually serve our brothers and sisters in need.

With gratitude,

John Watkins

Director

Office of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns



*Every time*

a child had fun learning...



Most mornings, Noah arrives at *Wellspring Women's Center* with his grandmother. He heads to "The Children's Corner," where he's learning the alphabet and the ABC's of having fun with others. Mom is 23, works two jobs and is tending to her own education. Staff and volunteers give — and receive — boatloads of love.

*...you made the difference.*

**675** women

and their families received hope and help through Wellspring Women's Center.

*Every time*

someone transitioned out of homelessness...



Leon lives independently in housing made possible by *Northern Valley Catholic Social Service*. Through the "Supportive Housing Program," his life among the homeless is part of the past. Now, an ability to cope with mental illness is part of his present and future. Benecia Robrecht of NVCSS provides support and encouragement to Leon and many others in the program.

*...you made the difference.*

**20,000** people

received hope and help through programs of Northern Valley Catholic Social Service.

*Every time*

a child at-risk was given a chance to thrive...



*St. Patrick Succeed Academy* is one of several Catholic schools that provide faith-based values and innovative education in our most economically-challenged neighborhoods. The need for tuition assistance is great. Access to funds is challenging. Appeal funds helped bridge the gap for families in need.

*...you made the difference.*

**\$500,000** helped

families in our most economically-challenged communities thrive 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 2016 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*

Lincoln Snyder  
*Director of Catholic Schools*



*Every time*

new life and struggling parents were helped...



Erica and Raymond were newly married and faced enormous financial and physical obstacles when they stepped aboard the *Sacramento Life Center Mobile Clinic*. Yes, a baby was on the way. This first encounter led to medical services, counseling and referrals to a network of help to overcome their circumstances and prepare for the birth of Raymond Jr.

*...you made the difference.*

**1,714** people

were supported with hope and help through Sacramento Life Center.

*Every time*

someone is welcomed into our community...



As a volunteer teacher, Jen Call inspires a diverse group of students who are learning English. Jen is working on her Master's in English as a Second Language. *Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services* provides more than a safe and welcome environment for those seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Volunteers like Jen are provided an opportunity to serve.

*...you made the difference.*

**45,000** families

gained hope and a path to independence through Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.

## DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

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

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 seven who are at college and pre-theology level, the three in pastoral year and twelve 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 Diocese.

We are all humbled by your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Fr. Jovito Rata  
Director, Office of Vocations



*Every time*

a seminarian moved closer to ordination...



Currently 22 seminarians are in formation for priesthood in our Diocese. In response to your prayers for increased vocations to the priesthood, the Annual Catholic Appeal helps assure our parishes have strong and vibrant leadership.

*...you made the difference.*

**\$35,000** a year  
is the cost to educate one seminarian.

*“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

“With your support, more families and individuals can find a variety of emergency assistance services through **St. Vincent de Paul** in 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 KOZŁOWSKI, TREASURER

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

## ENCOUNTERING OTHERS, ENCOUNTERING CHRIST



“The attitude of thanks disposes us to humility, to recognize and welcome the gifts of the Lord.”

POPE FRANCIS



“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

*To the agency volunteers*  
*who worked an estimated*  
**360,000** 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  
in the Diocese of Sacramento.

## WE ARE GRATEFUL



JOHN AND MERCY KNIGHT

To all those — including John and Mercy Knight of St. John the Baptist Parish, Folsom — who've worked countless hours to establish and grow parish ministries in service to others, we say "thank you".

To those who promote the Annual Catholic Appeal in our parishes, thank you for the work you do to connect parishioners to our Northern California brothers and sisters in need.



*“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.

— A PROGRAM OF —

*The Catholic Foundation*  
of the DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO, INC.

