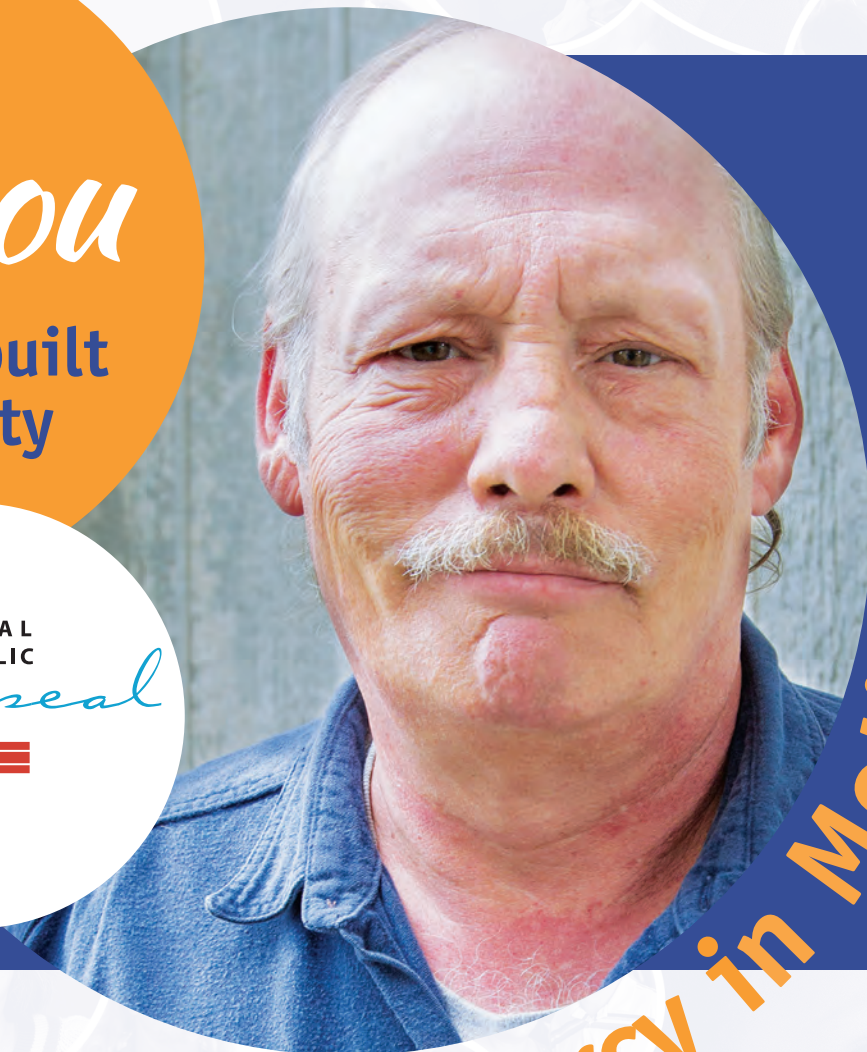


Because

of you

lives are rebuilt
with dignity



Mercy in Motion

2017 REPORT OF GRATITUDE

“Your kindness has brought hope and
the tender mercy of Jesus
to our neighbors in need.”

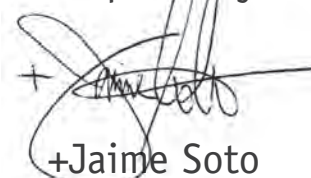
DEAR CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST:

EACH YEAR I appeal to your generosity on behalf of tens of thousands of individuals and families throughout our Northern California diocese. And each year you respond.

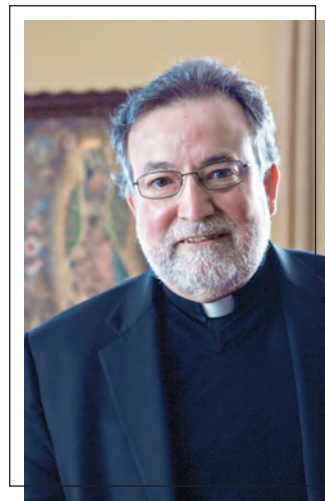
In 2017 more than 25,000 of you contributed nearly \$3.7 million. Fifty percent of funds collected went to charitable organizations helping people to overcome poverty and despair, and to rebuild lives with dignity. Twenty-five percent went back to your parishes so that a wide variety of needs could be 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.

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 prayers and my gratitude.

Respectfully,


+Jaime Soto

Bishop of Sacramento



Every time
...someone found stability



Mercy in Motion

Wayne and Jessica have each faced tragic circumstances in their lives — and have each found their way to Valley View in Chico, an independent living complex devoted to homeless individuals who struggle with mental illness. Unlike shelters or transitional housing, this program of *Northern Valley Catholic Social Service* gives residents a path to independence and support in coping with mental illness.

...you made the difference.

15,000 people

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

Every time

...a family recovered from great loss



She was nurse. He was a doctor. Until civil war drove them from their home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pregnant and nearly homeless, Neema was guided to the *Sacramento Life Center* where life-sustaining services, medical care and a vast network of support led to job training, housing and the resources to bring her husband to Sacramento. Today they are an independent and thriving family.

...you made the difference.

1,789 people

received help and a path to a better future through Sacramento Life Center

DEAR FRIENDS:

IT IS A GREAT BLESSING TO SEE THE DIGNITY AND HOPE made possible by 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.

On any given day, hundreds of thousands of people in the 20 counties of our diocese need help. By living the Gospel message of service to others, your continued and faithful support make it possible for this life-saving work to continue.

With gratitude,

John Watkins

Director

Office of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns



Every time

...a teen found courage and strength



In today's society, students and families are more vulnerable than ever to overwhelming stress. Teri is part of a team of school counselors working through *Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano* to help students and families to cope with difficult circumstances and to avoid crisis in their lives.

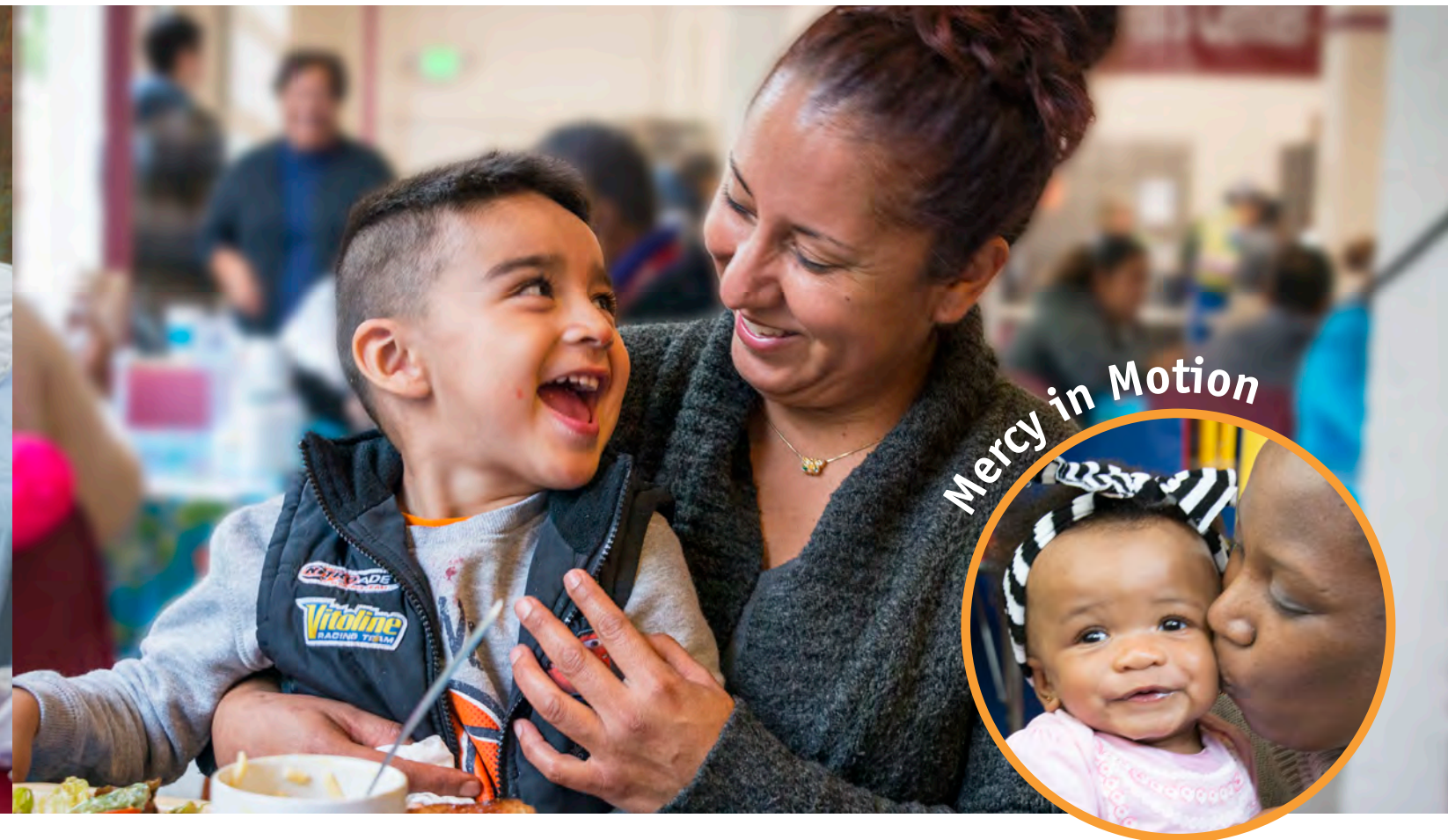
...you made the difference.

4,000 students

have access to school counselors through
Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano

Every time

...a mother and child found love and support



Women in the isolation and loneliness of poverty drop in for a nutritious breakfast and unconditional support at *Wellspring Women's Center*. With access to children's programming, women's wellness and safety-net services, the innate goodness of every woman and child is nurtured in an atmosphere of hospitality, dignity and love.

...you made the difference.

600 women

received love, hope and help last year
at Wellspring Women's Center in Sacramento

Every time

...a child could stay in Catholic school



St. Vincent Ferrer School in Vallejo 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.

\$538,000 helped

families in our most economically-challenged communities to thrive in Catholic school.

DEAR FRIENDS:

CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS 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 2017 has made a specific and significant difference to schools that cannot raise enough funds for tuition-assistance on their own.

We are committed to the formation of children in the Diocese of Sacramento in the understanding that they, too, are called to serve. 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. Your generosity supports this most important endeavor.

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

Your fellow servant in Christ,

LINCOLN SNYDER

Lincoln Snyder
Executive Director of Catholic Schools



Every time

...a parish helped someone in need



On Sundays, trained volunteers from Fairfield, Vallejo and Benicia parishes visit the local jails. *St. Vincent de Paul* is working hard to address this under-served work of mercy, bringing hope to men and women inmates who yearn for God's presence and a sense of worth as human beings. Brian and Ana oversee this mission with love and compassion.

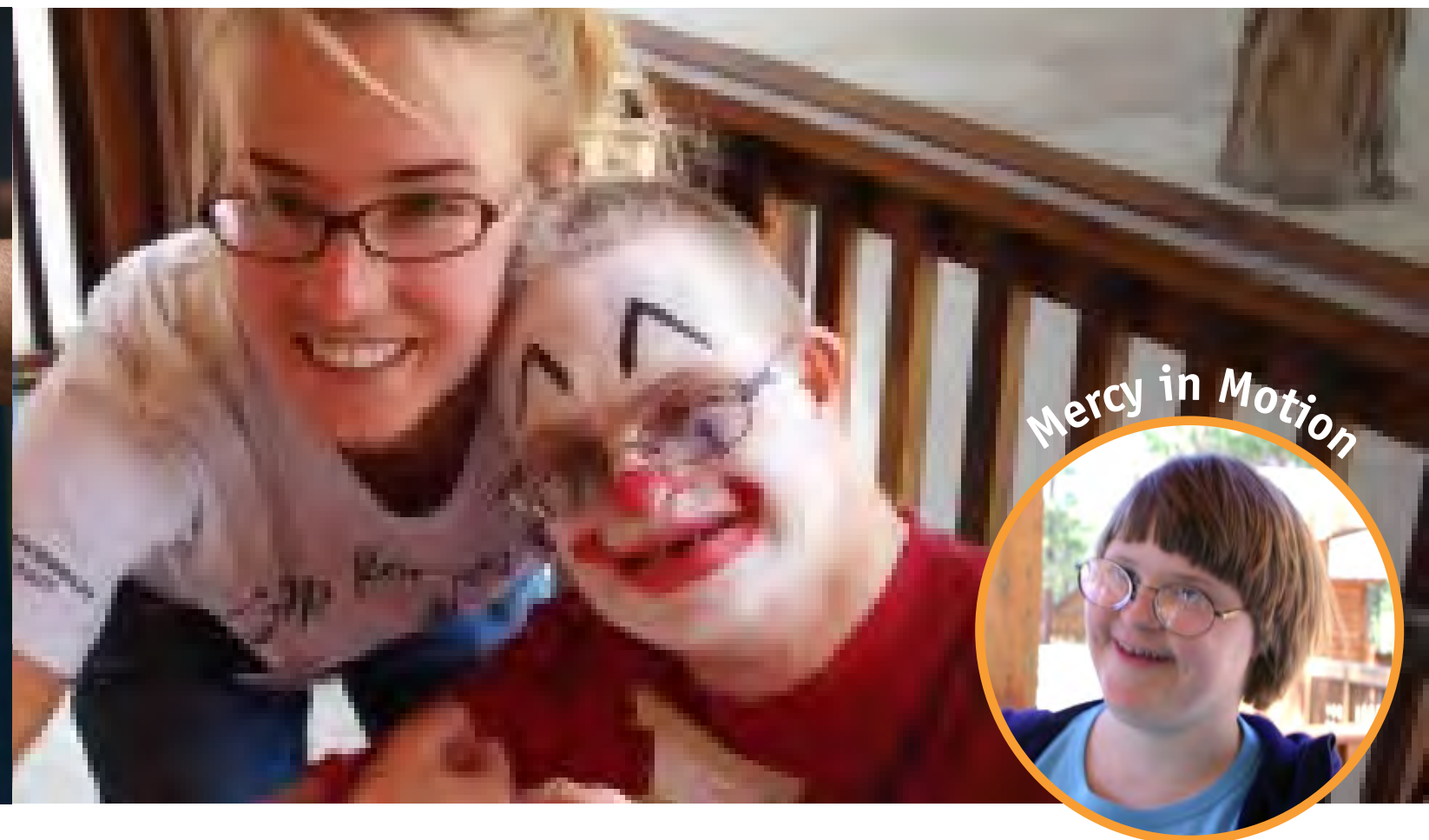
...you made the difference.

102 parishes

have a 25% share of the Appeal
to support local efforts

Every time

...parents and caregivers found respite



Summer camp means many things. At *Camp ReCreation* it means fun, friendship, social interaction and spiritual growth for people with developmental disabilities — and much-needed respite for parents and caregivers. The need is great and applications each year exceed capacity. Funds from the Annual Catholic Appeal make a difference.

...you made the difference.

140 individuals

with developmental and physical disabilities
enjoy Camp ReCreation each year

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 one candidate in English studies, five who are at college and pre-theology level, the two 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 moves closer to ordination



"Our diocese paid for most of my seminary education. My parents are farmers. Without financial help they could not have paid for my education. Thanks to you, men like me graduate and are ordained as priests for our diocese. Here I am now, serving you the best way I can." - Fr. Guillermo Ramirez, ordained in 2013

...you made the difference.

3 new priests

were ordained this year. Nineteen seminarians are currently in formation

Every time
...a family is now safe



In Afghanistan, Mohibullah put his life on the line as an interpreter and medic for the U.S. Army. Now in Sacramento through the *Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services Resettlement Program*, he and his family feel safe and truly welcome with housing, work and support from Rocio and her dedicated staff.

...you made the difference.

208 newcomers

were welcomed and cared for by Sacramento
Food Bank & Family Services

THANK YOU
You made the difference.

“Together you are providing food for the hungry, hope for the hopeless, and a future for the lost. Thank you for being the hands and feet in this community.”

— *Loaves & Fishes, Sacramento*

“Thank you for being a partner in our work with the poor in our community!”

— *Catholic Ladies Relief Society, Chico*

“Wellspring is grateful to the Catholic community for its generosity by stewarding resources carefully and providing programs for every woman and child with hospitality, dignity and love.”

— *Wellspring Women’s Center, Sacramento*

“Without the Appeal, more than 2,500 family households would go hungry for months or more.”

— *Anderson Cottonwood Christian Assistance*

“A heartfelt thank you for your generous donations, which we use to continue to provide food for at-risk families.”

— *Salvation Army, Susanville*

“One of our sayings is ‘Help Us Help Others.’ In your giving, your prayers and your support, you join with us to be the Hands of Christ, as we try as our founder said ‘to do a little good.’”

— *St. Vincent de Paul*



“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.

