

“Go and make disciples
of all nations. . .”

Matthew 28:19



2022 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

Living Our Mission

Assistance for Catholic Education

The pandemic challenged all schools like never before. Catholic schools at the Diocese of San Diego rose that challenge, and then some. School staffs, from principals to teachers to support personnel, innovated to develop new ways to deliver instruction while changing physical spaces and routines to keep students safe.

Days after authorities ordered schools shut, our schools launched online instruction. And the following academic year they offered both online and in-class instruction, enabling our students to continue their education without missing a beat. Families took notice across the region, and enrollment increased by nearly 15 percent in the diocese’s 42 elementary schools, the greatest growth in more than a decade.

However, the mission of our schools remains steadfast and is now more important than ever: To offer instructional excellence, enabling our students to rise to their academic potential, while nurturing their spiritual growth, building Christ’s Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

Bishop Robert W. McElroy affirms this mission of our schools. “Our Catholic schools provide the witness to God’s presence in the world which is the foundation for developing a strong personal relationship with God, an appreciation for the wonders of creation which lie all around us, the joy of community and the pursuit of academic and personal excellence.”

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 giving.sdatholic.org.



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Inspired by Jesus, who “came not to be served, but to serve.” Catholic Charities exists to exemplify the scriptural values of mercy and hospitality by **Witnessing** the gospel message contained in “**Matthew 25:**”; to advocate for a just society by **Calling** individuals and institutions to action on behalf of the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized; and to acknowledge the sacredness of the human person by **Accompanying** those we serve on their journey toward achieving their full potential as persons created in the image and likeness of God.

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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. We currently care for 68 retired priests.

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 1 retired bishop and 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.

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