

# Responding to **GOD'S** Grace

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. — 1 Peter 4:10



2019 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL  
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

## Assistance for *Catholic Education*

Our diocese includes a collaborative network of 45 outstanding Catholic schools, educating nearly 15,000 students each year. Most of our schools are in great shape, while other schools truly need our support. The Annual Catholic Appeal currently provides both a diocesan-wide tuition assistance program and an institutional support program to assist schools in need, impacting the lives of thousands of students.

Since its inception many years ago, the Diocese of San Diego & Imperial Counties Tuition Assistance Program has partnered to assist hundreds of families desirous of a Catholic education for their children who otherwise could not afford it. The Annual Catholic Appeal make this possible. Over the past ten years with the support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, Catholic schools in San Diego have received institutional support grants totaling more than five million dollars! These grants help to keep the vital mission of Catholic education both accessible and affordable for children of families living in neighborhoods that have been the most impacted by economic challenges. "Our entire community will always be grateful for the support we receive from the Annual Catholic Appeal," said Gina Olsen, principal of St. Rita School. "As an urban school with financial pressures, it helps us support our teachers and, without it, our doors would be closed."

Bishop McElroy understands the value and mission of our local Catholic schools. He said, "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."

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## 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](http://giving.sdatholic.org).



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Assistance for

 **Catholic Charities**  
**DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO**



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.

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 2 retired bishops and 50 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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