



**Annual Bishop's Appeal**  
**Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux**  
 2779 Highway 311  
 Post Office Box 505  
 Schriever, Louisiana 70395

*Together,* as we serve one mission in Christ, we are continuing to see the fruits of our Plans of Hope in forming missionary disciples and renewing our parishes. Your support through the Annual Bishop's Appeal has given tremendous support to our strategic plan implementation with adult formation, youth and family ministry, while also supporting our retired priests. I, Bishop Fabre, would like to express my sincerest gratitude for each and every gift in support of the Annual Bishop's Appeal. May God Bless you as you continue to spread the word of God and know the love of Jesus Christ.

*Thank you*



**THE DIOCESE OF HOUMA THIBODAUX**

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL 2018

**PARTNERS in HOPE**  
 Serving One Mission Together



Dear my Friends in Christ,

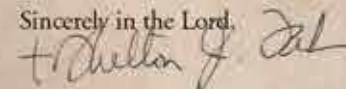
We do not have to look far to see the Lord's work in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Each year we ask our parishioners to prayerfully consider making a commitment to the Annual Bishop's Appeal to support specific ministries of our diocese that impacts lives in our community each year. This year, through the generosity of more than 3,000 families and individual contributors, the Annual Bishop's Appeal secured over \$885,000 dollars in pledges. While we did fall short of our goal of \$1,000,000, your great generosity fills my heart with a great sense of hope.

When I consider our Annual Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Ministries, I am reminded of the passage from the twelfth chapter of Luke's gospel: *'From everyone who has been given much, much will be required.'*

Here in our diocese, we receive, with great gratitude, each gift in support of this campaign. We also realize, however, that we are responsible for the judicious stewardship of each and every dollar collected for the Annual Bishop's Appeal. The funds collected for this campaign support our retired priests, our adult formation ministries, youth ministry and family ministries across our diocese. These programs are made possible by the generosity of so many. Thank you for answering the Lord's call and for your unwavering devotion to our local church.

On behalf of all of those diocesan programs sustained by the Annual Bishop's Appeal and those who benefit from their services, I thank you for your generous support and trust. This year, in full understanding of our responsibility to both our donors and those people who may benefit from services offered by supported ministries and programs, we have included a specific analysis of those Bishop's Appeal funds that were applied to specific ministries and programs in our diocese. Additionally, should you have any questions regarding any of the material in this annual report, I would encourage you to contact Amy Ponson, Executive Director at 985-850-3122.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely in the Lord,  


Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre  
 Bishop of Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

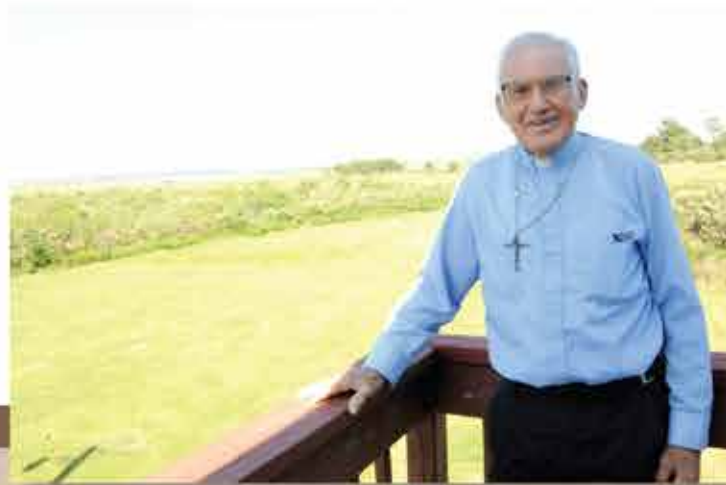


# Thank you

for caring for our devoted retired priests

## \$ 354,171 Retired Priests

Your gift to the Annual Bishop's Appeal is a way of honoring those retired priests that have faithfully served our parishes and diocese for many years. Even in retirement, many continue to serve by celebrating Mass, visiting hospitals and ministering to the sick. Our diocese cares for our clergy through their health and long-term care needs through cancer and intensive care policies as well as supplementing retirement income.



As we look back over the last 12 months, and reflect on the great work of our diocese and church parishes I am humbled with gratitude. It is gratitude that I have for the generosity of our loyal parishioners, YOU, our volunteers across our parishes and our priests who continue to work in building the body of Christ.

*"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered"* Proverbs 11:25. This verse is one I reflect on when praying for our diocese and praying for the generous hearts of our people. Every gift, no matter how big or small, that supports our Annual Bishop's Appeal

# Thank you

for helping form our youth in the eyes of Jesus

## \$177,085 Youth Formation

Through the guidance of Fr. John David Matherne as Bishop's Liaison for Youth Formation, our parishes are receiving hands on support for the training and development of youth ministers in our parishes. As a key part of the mission of the Office of Parish Support our youth formation initiatives work within parishes and on a diocesan scale to:

- Training small group leaders
- Development of youth retreats such as Christian Leadership Institute, Junior High Faith Experience and more
- Certification for parish lay ministries
- Developing a new approach to CCD and religious education for parishes

is a gift that enriches our diocese. Your gifts make it possible for us to care for our retired clergy, work hand in hand with our parishes in revamping our CCD programs, and so much more. It is my hope that this annual report helps you see the impact of your gift. I sincerely thank you for your prayers and gifts for our diocese. May you continue to be enriched in your faith and may God bring down his many blessings to you and your family!

With gratitude,  
Amy Ponson  
Executive Director

# Thank you

for supporting our families as they grow in God's Love

## \$177,085 Office of Family Ministries

**Office of Family Ministries** works directly with parishes providing services and resources for programs that support couples, families and individuals by way of marriage preparation, remarriage preparation, marriage enrichment, grief support, and Natural Family Planning. Additionally, the Office of Family Ministries organizes our diocesan wedding anniversary prayer service and Respect Life initiatives including the Youth March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. and help preserve the sanctity of all human life.



For more information on the how your gift supports these ministries through the Annual Bishop's Appeal please contact Amy Ponson at [aponson@htdiocese.org](mailto:aponson@htdiocese.org) or 985-850-3122.

# Thank you

for your dedication to our diocesan Adult Formation

## \$177,085 Adult formation

Over the past year, adult formation efforts have included: equipping 3-4 adults in every parish to become leaders of initiating a small group based discipleship process in their parish, offering 5 retreats focused on prayer and discernment for Parish Implementation Teams, producing over 60 short videos to help people understand about the Catholic faith and prayer. Producing the first of a 4 part discipleship video series called 'Art of Living', which is currently being piloted in parishes for the purpose of small group leader facilitation.



Looking forward to your continued prayers and generosity for our 2019 Annual Bishop's Appeal

