



“Hope goes not alone, but together.”

—Pope Francis

the grace we have received with the brothers and sisters that the Lord gives us each day.”

Every year, the Catholic Appeal gives us the opportunity to unite in hope and embrace our call to bring others closer to Christ by sharing His message and His mercy.

“The Catholic Appeal offers each of us the chance to continue spreading Christ’s love throughout Maine, providing hope in the process. When you contribute to the appeal, you are sharing your gifts with those in your local community, as well as those you may not ever see,” said Bishop Robert Deeley.

Through your support, you are feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting the sick or the imprisoned, instructing the ignorant, and comforting the lonely and the sorrowful.

Thanks to your generosity, \$3,205,570 was distributed to ministries across Maine in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The pie chart and program descriptions and stories on the following pages will help you to know how your contributions have helped in the past and where they will be allocated in the future.

Contributions to the Catholic Appeal may be made online at www.portlanddiocese.org/give or by scanning the QR code. You may also use the envelope included in this issue of *Harvest* or the envelopes that you will soon find in pews. If you would like more information, contact the Office of Development at development@portlanddiocese.org or 207.773.6471.



In this season of Easter, we celebrate the hope we find in the Risen Lord. No matter the trials we face, we are assured that Jesus is with us.

But as we rejoice in the glory of the resurrection, we know, too, that Christ has entrusted us with a mission — to bring His love to others and to be a beacon of hope for them. As Pope Francis has said, “We can only find happiness by sharing

United in Hope

Thousands of people across Maine are served each year through your gifts to the Catholic Appeal. Below, you will find brief summaries of the many programs and ministries the appeal supports.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Campus Ministry – The Catholic Appeal supports campus ministry at six public and private colleges and universities in Maine: Bates College in Lewiston, Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Colby College in Waterville, the University of Maine in Farmington, the University of Maine in Orono, and the University of New England in Biddeford. The appeal also provides funding that allows Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionaries to be present on the Orono campus, and it is anticipated that this fall, a campus minister will begin serving college students in the greater Portland area.

Catholic Schools – Our seven parish-based schools, as well as Saint Dominic Academy, Maine’s only pre-K-12 Catholic school, seek to educate the whole student, giving them a solid foundation in faith, helping them to achieve academic success, and educating them in the importance of service to others. The appeal supports the schools by covering

the cost of lay teacher pensions, providing grants to parishes and clusters with schools, and by funding the Office of Catholic Schools.

Parishes & Clergy

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception – As the mother church of our diocese and the seat of the bishop, the cathedral hosts many diocesan liturgies and ceremonies, such as the chrism Mass during Holy Week, the neophyte Mass, and the upcoming episcopal ordination of Bishop-elect James Ruggieri. The appeal assists the parish with some of the resulting costs.

Catholic Charities Maine Parish Social Ministry – Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry (PSM) works with parishes to empower the faithful to live out their baptismal call to serve the needs of people in their communities. The program assists parishes in establishing or enhancing ministries and programs, offers training to staff and volunteers, and helps parishes obtain additional funding. Parishes may also apply for PSM’s annual Matthew 25 Award, which included a \$6,000 grant in 2024.

Clergy Relief & Development – Resources are provided to foster the ongoing intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral formation of priests. The appeal also

provides for the care of priests who are on medical leave, ensuring their salary, health insurance, and pension continue while they are not serving at a parish.

Tribunal – The Department of Canonical Services provides expertise about canon law to the bishop, priests, religious, and laity of the diocese, ensuring that it is being implemented correctly and that the rights of the faithful are protected. The office includes the tribunal, a diocesan court, which primarily hears cases involving prior marriage bonds. The tribunal helps individuals resume full participation in the sacramental life of the Church and deepen their union with God by removing, when possible, impediments that may exist. To assist the faithful, department members are holding workshops around the diocese on the annulment process.

Vicar for Priests – On behalf of the bishop, the vicar for priests provides pastoral care to the priests of the diocese to ensure their personal and ministerial well-being.

People in Our Parishes

Christian Life Center – The Christian Life Center in Frenchville has been providing spiritual enrichment to the people of Aroostook County for more than 50 years.

The center offers eucharistic adoration, Bible study, marriage preparation, Masses, retreats, and other programming for people of all ages.

Deaf Ministry – The diocese offers interpreted Masses on the second Sunday of each month at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland.

Hispanic Ministry – The Office of Hispanic Ministry regularly offers Mass in Spanish in eight communities. The office also offers sacramental preparation, faith formation for adults and children, and prayer and faith-enriching opportunities, such as a retreat day, a Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration, and a Latino Festival. In 2024, an Easter Vigil Mass in Spanish was celebrated for the first time. According to the most recent census, there are nearly 28,000 members of the Hispanic community in Maine.

Lifelong Faith Formation – The Office of Lifelong Faith Formation guides evangelization and catechesis of the faithful so each may know and love Jesus Christ and fully participate in the life and mission of the Church. The office provides support and resources to priests, pastoral life coordinators, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, and others involved in faith formation and sacramental preparation for all ages. The office also offers programs such as the annual men’s and women’s conferences, diocesan youth days, and middle school retreats.

People in Need

Catholic Charities Maine – The many ministries and programs of Catholic

Charities Maine serve people of all ages in all corners of the state. Appeal supported programs include Catholic Charities’ Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage and Hope (SEARCH) program and Independent Support Services, which both provide seniors with assistance so they can remain in their homes. Many seniors also benefit from Hunger & Relief Services, which includes the Catholic Charities Food Bank in Caribou. The food bank supplies 28 pantries in Aroostook, northern Penobscot, and Washington counties. Relief and Hope Services, a division of Parish Social Ministry, helps people facing emergency situations connect with services. Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services is dedicated to helping those newly arrived in Maine settle in their new home by providing orientation, employment, educational, and cultural adjustment services. And the St. Louis Child Development Center in Biddeford and St. Elizabeth’s Child Development Center in Portland are committed to providing affordable child care and to nurturing and inspiring children so they can achieve their fullest potential.

Hospital Chaplains – The appeal allows priest and lay chaplains to be present at Maine’s largest secular hospitals, including Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, Maine Medical Center in Portland, MaineGeneral Health in Augusta, Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, and Southern Maine Health Care in Biddeford and Southern Maine Health Care Medical Center in Sanford.

Prison Ministry – Chaplaincies supported by the appeal provide catechetical and spiritual opportunities for inmates at the Maine State Prison in Warren and the Maine Correctional Center in Windham.

Saint André Home – The appeal supports the work of Saint André Home’s CourageLIVES, which provides community-based services for people who have been impacted by human trafficking, exploitation, sexual abuse, or domestic violence. Through a mentoring support system, counseling services, skills and vocational training, and a long-term support network, CourageLIVES helps women rebuild their lives.

Spreading the Good News

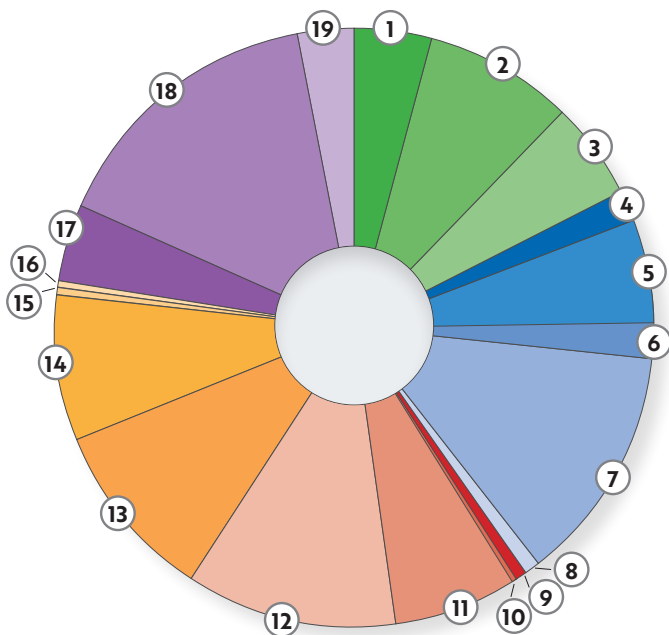
Communications – The Office of Communications uses traditional and social media to share stories and information about ministries, services, and events throughout the diocese. The office also offers guidance, resources, and support to parishes and schools in their communications efforts.

Development Office – The Office of Development works to build up the financial resources of the diocese and parishes so they may continue to bring the good news of Christ to the people of Maine.

Harvest – Sent to nearly 40,000 households across Maine, *Harvest* shares inspirational stories of faith, includes authentic Catholic teaching, and showcases the many programs and ministries of our parishes, schools, and offices. ■

Catholic Appeal 2023 Annual Report Information

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023



Youth & Young Adult Ministry

1. Campus Ministry \$140,050
2. Catholic Schools Office & School Grants \$254,120
3. Teacher Pensions \$175,890

Parishes & Clergy

4. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception \$52,760
5. Catholic Charities Maine Parish Social Ministry \$186,866
6. Clergy Relief & Development \$56,160
7. Tribunal \$404,140
8. Vicar for Priests \$25,520

People in our parishes

9. Christian Life Center \$17,850
10. Deaf Ministry \$830
11. Hispanic Ministry \$228,630
12. Lifelong Faith Formation \$356,960

People in need

13. Catholic Charities Maine \$308,314
14. Hospital Chaplains \$262,810
15. Prison Ministry \$9,290
16. St. André Home \$8,120

Spreading the Good News

17. Communications \$131,190
18. Development \$493,530
19. Harvest Magazine \$92,540

Total: \$3,205,570