



Bishop's Annual Appeal  
FOR CATHOLIC MINISTRIES



2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR CATHOLIC MINISTRIES



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## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Book of Ecclesiastes we read, “There is a time for everything, and a season for **every** activity under the heavens” (Ecclesiastes 3:3). As I reflect on these words and think of the wonderful things that are happening in the Diocese of Dallas, I call to mind the commitment, dedication, and generosity of the people in the Diocese and how humbled I am to be your Shepherd. This is my time to thank you and, at the same time, invite you to see the impact of your support.

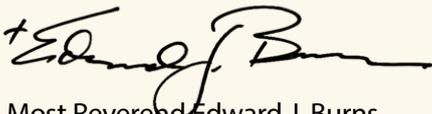
As I travel throughout the Diocese of Dallas, I rejoice in my encounters with parishioners who are happy about the good work going on in the Diocese. As a donor to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries, your donation makes all this possible. So often I hear people sharing stories of how happy and proud they are to live in the Diocese of Dallas, and it is because of YOU and your generosity. You lead the way in service and love, allowing the Catholic Church to bring forth the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ to those who need it most by serving **every** child, youth, volunteer, ministry, vocation, and soul.

Your response – prayerfully and financially – to the call to action is one of the many reasons I am proud to be your Bishop, and I am so grateful to witness the impact you make **every** day.

On behalf of all those who benefit from your participation in the work of the Diocese, and on behalf of all proud Catholics for the work of the Diocese – THANK YOU! Thank you for keeping the mission of the Church alive and flourishing in North Texas. Please continue this good work by sustaining your support through next year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

You and your loved ones remain in my prayers, as I hope I remain in yours.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Burns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Edward J. Burns  
Bishop of Dallas



# Mission of the Appeal

The mission of the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries is to support the spiritual and material needs of our Catholic community in North Texas, promote the teachings of Jesus Christ, and fulfill the Apostolic mission to serve those in need. Through the generosity of our donors, we aim to provide critical resources for programs and ministries that foster faith formation, evangelization, social justice, and charitable outreach. We strive to cultivate a culture of stewardship, encouraging all members of our Catholic community to share their time, talent, and treasure for the greater glory of God and the flourishing of His people.



**31%** **Seminarian Formation**

## ***Seminarian Formation***

Supports seminarians' academic, pastoral, human, and spiritual development at Holy Trinity Seminary, Redemptoris Mater Seminary, and diocesan seminarians in other seminaries throughout the United States and Rome.

## ***Pastoral Ministries***

Supports the ministries that assist the Church in growing in our faith as a lifelong process, providing spiritual care, seeking the grace of the sacraments, appreciating the diversity of our communities, providing resources to parish leaders, and maintaining the living liturgy of the Church.



**19%** **Pastoral Ministries**



**13%** Catholic Education

**Catholic Education**

Supports operations in the Diocese of Dallas Catholic schools, allowing schools to prepare students to be saints and scholars with support for curriculum design, professional development, enrollment marketing, community partnerships, high school scholarships, and recruitment of qualified teachers.

**Priests, Deacons, and Religious Life**

Supports the education, ordination, and ongoing formation of our priests and deacons, as well as the encouragement of religious vocations for men and women.



**13%** Priests, Deacons, & Religious Life



**12%** Community Outreach

**Community Outreach**

Supports community services to people in need in the North Texas area through programs like the Saint Raphael Retreat Center and Catholic Charities Dallas.

**Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries**

Supports the evolving needs of our youth and their families as they mature in their relationships with Christ.



**12%** Youth, Young Adult, & Campus Ministries

*\*Fiscal year 2023 budgeted distributions*



**1,315,086**  
CATHOLICS



**9 COUNTIES**  
(Dallas, Collin, Ellis, Fannin,  
Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman,  
Navarro, and Rockwall)



MASS CELEBRATED IN  
**17 LANGUAGES**



**26**  
DIOCESAN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS

**3**  
DIOCESAN  
HIGH  
SCHOOLS

**7**  
PRIVATE  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS



**11,139**

INFANT, CHILD, AND  
ADULT BAPTISMS



**1,733**

MARRIAGES



**13,874**

CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL STUDENTS



**6,610**

FIRST COMMUNIONS



**6**

CHAPLAINS SERVING 12+  
HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT  
THE DIOCESE



**1,000+**

BIBLES DISTRIBUTED  
*(including 250 to prisoners in prison)*



**7,274**

CONFIRMATIONS



**181**

PERMANENT  
DEACONS



**153**

DIOCESAN AND  
EXTERN PRIESTS



**114**

RELIGIOUS PRIESTS  
AND BROTHERS



**100**

RELIGIOUS SISTERS



**64**

SEMINARIANS

Source: Office of the Vicar  
General as of December 31, 2022



## Every *Child*...

My name is Scott Ripberger and I have been fortunate to work in education for the past 21 years at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Plano as a teacher, administrator, coach, mentor, and now counselor. As a counselor, my focus is on the formation of the whole child, including academic, spiritual, social, and emotional growth. Children need and seek a sense of connection and belonging from their parents, peers, and others in their life. Educators and staff in our Catholic schools have a great mission of forming authentic bonds and connections, which promote positive self-worth and self-esteem in students.

I am blessed to be able to talk to individuals, small groups, and entire classes about things like God, virtues, and our faith. I could not imagine being as effective as a counselor without being able to remind students to seek and look at things through a Christ-centered lens. My most important role is to be an advocate for all the students. I hope they all leave our Catholic schools, feeling a sense of connection and genuine care from their peers and adults, and carry that forward as they interact with others.

- Scott Ripberger, Prince of Peace Catholic School

# Every *Youth...*

Dallas Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) was held in February 2023 with more than **1,000 participants** at a 3-day conference, hosted by the Diocese of Dallas Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries.

***“DCYC was so refreshing and renewing for my faith.”***

*– Hailey (Teen), St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish, Frisco*

***“It’s so exciting to all be together, and the conference is great no matter where you are in your faith.”***

*– Aberly, A-Team Member, St. Anthony’s Wylie*

***“The Synod session at DCYC showed me that I am the Church now and everything I do is first a reflection of the Church and second it helps carry the faith into future generations.”***

*– Grace H. (Teen), St. Ann Catholic Parish, Coppell*



## Every *Ministry*...

Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (PJH) is a Hispanic young adult ministry model designed for those who would benefit from participating in a culturally specific ministry. This ministry takes place in participating parishes and supports the overall mission of the Office of Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministries to form missionary leaders.

In the past year, PJH has supported 16 parishes and movements within the 7 deaneries, hosted 7 formational offerings, and translated the Ascend: New Ministry Leader Orientation to support 71 volunteer ministry leaders. Currently, PJH directly supports 420 Hispanic young adults in the Diocese of Dallas.



“There are a few things that come to mind immediately when thinking about the impact of PJH on my life. One of them for me is how it makes me get out of my comfort zone, consistently. If it was up to me, I’d be in the background minding my own business making sure no one sees me. PJH has made me grow a little bit in that aspect. I’ve done things that I’ve never imagined doing from acting in front of people, to leading a play with the help of wonderful people, to opening up to people about God and the personal journeys I’ve had with Him. My faith has become stronger and I would attest this to the passing of my uncle because there was a moment where I thought ‘This might be where I bow out’ but throughout that journey, there were constant reminders of God being there so in a situation where I could’ve just walked away from the youth ministry and leave everything I’ve built up to that point, I didn’t... I stayed.

Selfishly of course I still wanted my uncle here, anything to not have my cousins and aunt suffer through it, but the will of God can be different from what we want and that’s where faith comes into play and that’s with prayer. It also has made me force myself to see what I need to work on. I have never been in a leadership role so to me everything is a lesson, so I’m learning as I go, learning to be comfortable in my decisions, learning from my mistakes, and most importantly learning to be patient knowing God will do right. All this to say it has helped me grow which I think is the point of a youth ministry. I’d argue it’s as important as any college course because it’s teaching you how to face life and how to overcome life under the belief and protection of God.”

– Mario González, Pastoral Juvenil Hispana Coordinator from San Juan Diego

## Every *Voice...*

***“ Everyone deserves  
to be seen and  
heard. Bishop  
Burns is committed  
to hearing every voice.”***

*– Susie Aleman,  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Member of the Synod Preparatory Commission*





Bishop Burns has called a diocesan Synod for the Diocese of Dallas in 2024. A synod is a meeting that takes place at a particular time, bringing together people appointed from varied backgrounds to discuss pastoral and administrative practices in a particular diocese. The entire synod process is conducted over 10 years with the assistance of the Synod Preparatory Commission and the participation of the faithful in the Diocese.

The Synod Preparatory Commission will host listening sessions through October 2023 to gather perspectives of the faithful that will be discussed at the Synod Meeting in 2024. Since the start of the listening sessions over 2,500 people have attended and more than 2,000 pages of data have been collected. Once the listening sessions have concluded, the Commission will then propose resolutions to Bishop Burns to assist him in setting the direction of the Church in the Diocese of Dallas. The final six years of the Synod will be dedicated to implementing the resolutions that Bishop Burns determines are most critical to advancing the Apostolic mission of the Church and creating opportunities for the faithful to encounter Christ. Bishop Burns invites everyone to take the opportunity to participate in Synod Listening Sessions.

## Every *Volunteer*...

***“Volunteers give of themselves with no hesitancy and no desire for anything in return.***

***Seeing the heart of joyful service of people is so encouraging to me in this process...The things people are sharing and living out their faith is moving.”***

***- Julie Billmeier,  
St. Rita Catholic Community, Dallas  
Member of the Synod Preparatory Commission***

## Every *Soul*...

My name is Gary Garza and I have been involved in prison ministry for the last 27 years. I am currently serving as a Volunteer Prison Chaplain in two prisons. How does one begin their entry into prison ministry? Often people enter the ministry as the result of the incarceration of a friend or a family member. My entry began in 1996 when a friend received a 40-year sentence. Right then and there I decided to support my friend during his incarceration. I began to be part of an ongoing weekly Bible Study at the Tarrant County Jail hoping that one day I would be able to minister directly with my friend. For 16 months, I participated in the Bible Study program. In those 16 months, I learned about life within the county jail system. After 16 months my friend was sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

Strictly speaking not everyone is called to serve in a jail or prison environment. I began working in the prison ministry to support my friend via visits and as a pen pal. I learned that statistically speaking, after five years most incarcerated men and women stop getting visits and mail correspondence. The phrase, "out of sight and out of mind," takes them out of others' memory.

In August 2006, I began serving as Chaplain at the Hutchins State Jail and have been there for the last 17 years. With the help of a team pulled from across the Diocese, I was able to establish an ongoing RCIA program. Approximately 60 residents have received sacraments. I also established a team of men to support weekly communion services, including men in diaconate formation. As part of their formation, diaconate candidates serve in hospitals and prison settings as part of an 18-month practicum. My role is to help these men negotiate the TDCJ system so they can serve the men in residence. I have also had the honor of helping Bishop Burns come into the prison to celebrate Christmas Day Mass several years in a row.

- Gary Garza, St. Michael the Archangel, Grand Prairie

# Every *Vocation*...

My name is Deacon Parker Thompson. I was ordained a deacon by Bishop Burns on April 29, 2023, and, God willing, I will be ordained to the priesthood in 2024. I entered seminary with the Diocese of Dallas after I graduated from Jesuit College Preparatory School. As I finish my ninth year of priestly formation, I look back and see the numerous opportunities I've had in order to become the best priest God is calling me to be. These opportunities to help seminarians are all made possible because of the generous donors of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



During the academic year, seminarians study the vast tradition and teachings of the Church, which include dogmatic theology, systematic and sacramental theology, scripture, and pastoral synthesis and application. Outside the academic year, seminarians participate in other formation programs as well. I also experienced two summers of Spanish immersion programs in Central America where I learned Spanish and learned the cultures of the hometowns where many of the faithful of Dallas come from. Many families I encountered have relatives now living in our Diocese. Other experiences include living at different parishes for a summer or a whole year, giving me the opportunity to learn the day-to-day workings of a parish and the life of a priest. I was also sent to participate in the Program of Priestly Formation at Creighton University where we learned and participated in the spiritual tradition of the Church, learned about the saints, and did an eight-day silent retreat. I also served as the ICU Chaplain at Baylor University Medical Center in downtown Dallas where I ministered and encountered people in the most difficult times of their lives.

I never would have experienced these things on my own. Rather, under the direction and support of the Bishop, I have experienced and entered into these programs for the purpose to be a well-formed and faithful priest. These experiences have changed my life, and for that, I am deeply grateful. However, I am not the only seminarian to have had these experiences. All seminarians go through a rigorous multi-year formation program so that we might better love the people of the Diocese



of Dallas. These programs require financial support, but the payoff is having well-formed, faithful, and loving priests who have learned how to minister and be present for the faithful of Dallas amidst the different joys and difficulties of life. I am beyond grateful to you, the supporters of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, who have funded these programs and life-changing experiences. As I complete my final year of formation to the priesthood, I ask for your continued prayers and support of me and all the seminarians, that we might faithfully serve you as priests in the Diocese of Dallas.



## Every *Gift*...

God blesses us so that we may bless others. Every year we look over our finances and set aside funds for various Catholic organizations. The Bishop's Annual Appeal is always on our list. We love the way it specifically supports our community in North Texas. The ways it contributes to vocations, bettering Catholic education, and various events truly grow our Catholic faith. The Bishop's Annual Appeal is a wonderful encompassing gift in our faith community. We are all called to give be that small or large. We are emboldened to be leaders by financially supporting our life-giving faith.

*- Natalie and Jared Patoskie, St. Ann Catholic Parish, Coppell*

*We are grateful to the thousands of families in our Diocese who support the Bishop's Annual Appeal ...*

FIRST-TIME DONORS FOR 2023

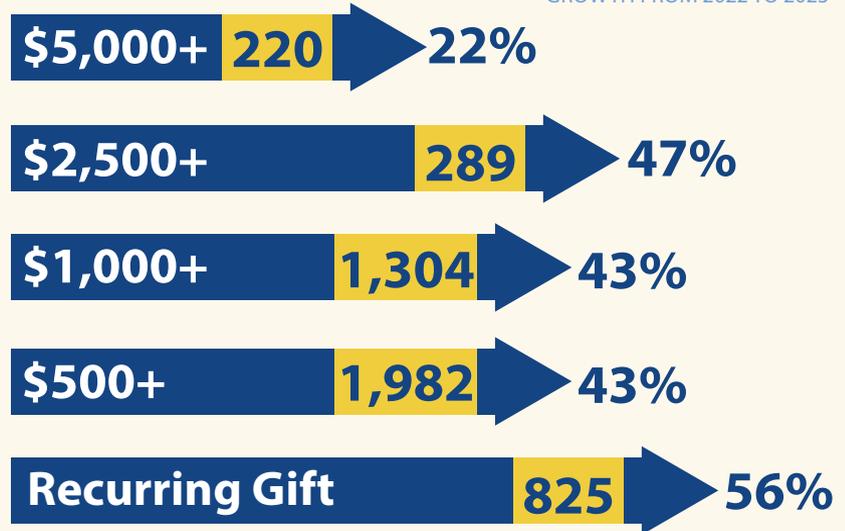
**2,813** **DONORS**

### Consecutive Giving

25+ years - 336 donors  
20+ years - 1,150 donors  
10+ years - 2,997 donors  
5+ years - 5,682 donors

## 2023 Giving Society Levels

GROWTH FROM 2022 TO 2023



## Every *Family*...

My name is Allison and this is my family, the Hsu Family. We have been in the Dallas area for over 40 years and we are members at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richardson. We have been faithful members of this community for three years, and Sacred Heart Chinese Parish in Plano for the previous 25 years. We support the Bishop's Annual Appeal because of the impact it has on the greater Catholic community as well as our neighbors and friends who need it most.

– Sean and Allison Hsu, St. Joseph Catholic Church,  
Richardson



# Every Parish...

## 2023 PARISH GOALS

PARISH NAME	GOAL	COMMITTED	PARISH NAME	GOAL	COMMITTED
All Saints	327,000	228,246	St. Cecilia	52,000	42,060
Blessed Sacrament	61,000	35,693	St. Edward	40,000	36,711
Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe	90,000	81,271	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Plano	407,000	308,141
<b>Christ the King*</b>	<b>442,000</b>	<b>546,318</b>	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	77,000	69,171
Church of the Incarnation	43,000	30,910	St. Elizabeth, Bonham	13,000	8,480
<b>Corpus Christi, Ferris</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>19,518</b>	<b>St. Francis of Assisi, Frisco</b>	<b>383,500</b>	<b>417,195</b>
Divine Mercy of Our Lord	23,000	14,545	St. Francis of Assisi, Whitesboro	17,500	13,580
<b>Epiphany, Italy</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>9,840</b>	St. Francis, Lancaster	25,000	23,199
Good Shepherd, Garland	91,500	68,182	<b>St. Gabriel the Archangel, McKinney*</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>210,929</b>
<b>Holy Cross*</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>66,827</b>	St. James	54,500	35,516
Holy Family of Nazareth, Irving	147,000	88,251	<b>St. John, Ennis</b>	<b>50,500</b>	<b>62,331</b>
<b>Holy Family, Van Alstyne*</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>58,391</b>	St. John, Terrell	23,500	19,005
Holy Spirit, Duncanville	122,000	113,466	<b>St. Joseph Vietnamese, Grand Prairie*</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>53,743</b>
<b>Holy Trinity</b>	<b>137,500</b>	<b>147,073</b>	<b>St. Joseph, Commerce</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>16,129</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception, Corsicana*</b>	<b>30,500</b>	<b>48,987</b>	St. Joseph, Richardson	205,000	175,408
Immaculate Conception, Grand Prairie	51,000	36,487	<b>St. Joseph, Waxahachie*</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>84,609</b>
Mary Immaculate	161,000	144,044	St. Jude Chapel	45,500	33,434
Mater Dei Personal Parish	20,000	14,483	<b>St. Jude, Allen</b>	<b>347,000</b>	<b>399,765</b>
<b>Mother of Perpetual Help*</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>142,692</b>	<b>St. Luke, Irving</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>90,739</b>
<b>Nuestra Señora del Pilar</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>40,665</b>	St. Mark the Evangelist, Plano	390,000	324,427
<b>Our Lady of Angels*</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>156,538</b>	St. Martin, Forney	56,500	34,621
<b>Our Lady of Fatima, Quinlan*</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,450</b>	St. Mary of Carmel	20,000	17,156
Our Lady of Lourdes	23,000	20,165	St. Mary, Sherman	103,000	69,819
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	17,500	17,261	St. Michael the Archangel, Garland	108,500	79,802
Our Lady of San Juan	7,500	3,251	St. Michael the Archangel, Grand Prairie	85,000	63,059
<b>Our Lady of the Lake</b>	<b>151,000</b>	<b>158,668</b>	St. Michael, McKinney	110,000	96,900
Prince of Peace	251,500	196,226	St. Monica	291,000	234,254
Sacred Heart of Jesus Chinese, Plano	17,000	14,161	St. Patrick, Dallas	221,000	193,774
<b>Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Carrollton*</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>44,649</b>	<b>St. Patrick, Denison</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>41,985</b>
<b>Sacred Heart, Rowlett</b>	<b>47,500</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>St. Paul the Apostle, Richardson*</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>186,295</b>
San Juan Diego	60,500	22,009	<b>St. Peter the Apostle*</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>15,163</b>
Santa Clara	38,500	21,164	<b>St. Peter Vietnamese*</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>26,640</b>
SMU Campus Ministry	40,000	34,480	<b>St. Philip the Apostle*</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>40,433</b>
St. Andrew Kim	26,000	23,745	St. Pius X	114,500	107,119
St. Ann, Coppell	467,000	420,517	<b>St. Rita</b>	<b>527,500</b>	<b>550,653</b>
<b>St. Ann, Kaufman</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>20,346</b>	St. Thomas Aquinas	309,000	298,688
<b>St. Anthony, Dallas*</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>10,444</b>	<b>St. William, Greenville*</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>37,041</b>
<b>St. Anthony, Wylie</b>	<b>97,500</b>	<b>103,357</b>	No Parish Designated	-	50,795
St. Augustine	26,000	18,264			
<b>St. Bernard of Clairvaux</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>64,180</b>			
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,181,000</b>	<b>7,915,379</b>

These numbers reflect gifts committed through July 31, 2023

Parishes in **Bold** and Asterisk (\*) have Exceeded Goal in Committed & Received YTD Dollars

Parishes in **Bold** have Exceeded Goal in Committed Dollars

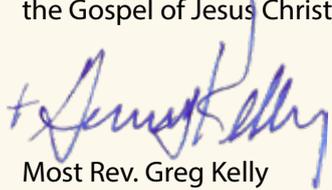
# Thank you from Bishop Kelly

## Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

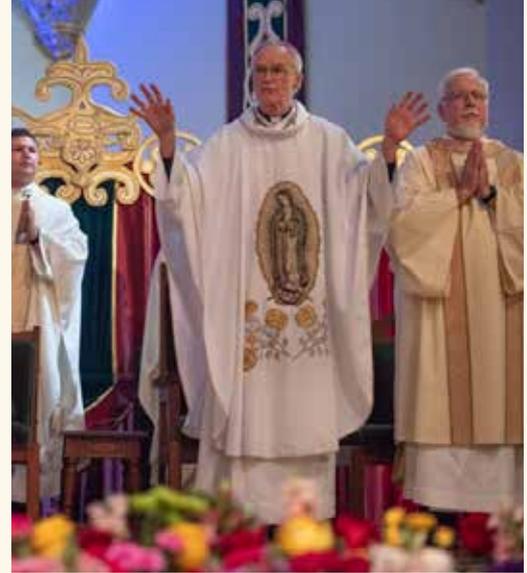
As the Vicar for Clergy, I wish to offer special thanks to you for your faithfulness and generosity in support of the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries. The Office for Clergy coordinates all matters pertaining to the ministry of priests, deacons, and seminarians in the Diocese and the ongoing formation of priests.

Your support this year helped promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, form and educate our seminarians, and provide for clergy assistance. In fact, over the last three years, 20 men have been ordained to the priesthood with eight this year alone.

Your faithful participation makes a profound impact as we work together as the Body of Christ to advance the Apostolic mission of the Church throughout the Diocese of Dallas. Thank you for entrusting us with your financial support and joining your Brothers and Sisters in Christ in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Most Rev. Greg Kelly  
Auxiliary Bishop/Vicar General  
Moderator of Curia/Vicar for Clergy





*“Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.”*

*- 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8*



"As the Diocese of Dallas continues to grow, so does the urgency in raising funds so that we can keep pace with our responsibilities. As we meet the needs of the faithful that reside in the nine counties of the Diocese of Dallas, let us call to mind the words of Henri Nouwen, priest and spiritual writer, 'God is a God of abundance, not a God of scarcity. God doesn't give us just enough. God gives us more than enough: more bread and fish than we can eat, more love than we dared to ask for.'

We recognize that the Lord has called us and gives us more than enough. He calls us to participate in the Church for the Church. I ask for your continued participation in the year ahead and consider being part of the good work we do in the Diocese of Dallas."

*-Bishop Edward J. Burns*



Bishop's Annual Appeal  
FOR CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

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Visit [dallasbishopsappeal.com](https://dallasbishopsappeal.com) to learn more.



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*Photos courtesy of The Texas Catholic.*

