



*Beacon of Hope*

DIocese of BRIDGEPORT  
ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL  
**2011**



*“Through your generosity, the Diocese of Bridgeport brings hope to the people of Fairfield County in sharing Jesus’ message of redeeming love.”*

Bishop William E. Lori

## THE 2011 ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL SUPPORTS THESE MINISTRIES IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

### **Catholic Charities**

- Adoption
- Behavioral Health Services
- Case Management
- Community Outreach
- Early Childhood Consulting
- Empowering People for Success
- Family Directions
- Family Loan Program
- Hispanic Outreach
- Homeless Outreach Team
- Housing
- Immigration Services
- Intensive Family Preservation & Reunification
- Medications Management Clinic
- Morning Glory
- New Heights
- New Covenant House of Hospitality/ Food Pantry
- Parent Education Program
- Pregnancy Counseling

- Room to Grow Early Childhood Center
- St. Stephen’s Food Pantry
- School Social Work
- Senior Citizen Outreach
- Senior Neighborhood Support Service
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Support Groups
- Supportive Housing
- Thomas Merton Center
- Thomas Merton Campus
- Thomas Merton Family Support Center
- Thomas Merton Homes
- Yerwood Food Program

### **Parish Life & Ministries**

- Adult Formation RCIA
- Marriage Preparation
- People with Special Needs
- Respect Life Ministry
- St. Augustine Lecture Series

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem Catechetical Program
- Youth Ministry

### **Catholic Education**

- 31 Elementary Schools
- 5 High Schools
- 1 Special Needs School
- Cardinal Sheehan Center
- McGivney Center

### **Clergy and Religious Ministries**

- Hospital Chaplains
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Prison Outreach
- Permanent Diaconate Program
- Retired Priests

### **Vocations**

- St. John Fisher Seminary Residence



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Your support of Catholic Charities touches the lives of individuals and families through food programs, counseling and housing initiatives. We aim to alleviate poverty in our urban communities by giving people a hand-up, not a hand-out.

Bishop Lori dedicated 22 apartments on the Thomas Merton Campus in Bridgeport in 2010 as supportive housing for families at risk of homelessness. Merton Homes expands Catholic Charities ability to offer affordable housing for more than 225 individuals. Our three major nutrition programs include the Morning Glory Breakfast Outreach in Danbury; the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport soup kitchen and food pantry that serves 1.2 million meals a year; and a parallel program at New Covenant House in Stamford which includes 150 inner-city youth.

*“There is no greater act of human kindness than to feed the hungry.”*

– Phil Shalala, Chairman Emeritus  
New Covenant House Board



*“I am grateful for the Catholic Charities housing program. It offers a beautiful, safe environment with an affordable monthly rent.”*

Tanisha, Resident



*“Our students are taught to have the guidance of God in their heart and a strong faith that lives with them forever.”*

Anna O'Rourke, Principal  
St. Mary School, Ridgefield  
2010 Blue Ribbon School

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Our Catholic Schools offer a faith-filled, nurturing, safe environment where students succeed in academics, learn values and practice community service. More than 11,000 students are enrolled in 31 elementary schools, one middle school, five high schools, and St. Catherine Academy, our special education school.

We are blessed this year to receive the United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award for six of our elementary schools. Since 2008, our Diocese has received 12 Blue Ribbon Schools Awards;



### 2010 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

- Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford
- St. Gregory the Great, Danbury
- St. Aloysius, New Canaan
- St. Mary, Ridgefield
- St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull
- St. Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield

*“Catholic Schools provide a moral foundation and outstanding academics for our children.”*

– Diane & Michael Steinerd, parent,  
St. Peter Parish, Danbury



## CATHEDRAL EDUCATION CLUSTER

The Cathedral Education Cluster brings hope to students and families in the inner-city of Bridgeport in six Catholic elementary schools.

### Cathedral Education Cluster Schools:

- St. Ambrose School
- St. Augustine School
- St. Andrew School
- St. Peter School
- St. Ann School
- St. Raphael School



*“Our schools seek to broaden academic and spiritual horizons.”*

– Sr. Joan Magnetti, rscj, Executive Director,  
Cathedral Education Cluster

---

*“I feel well prepared for high school because my teachers make sure we all have the critical thinking and technology skills we need to be successful.”*

– Samantha, 8th grade student



*“Our teachers take extra time and effort to make sure we learn.”*

– Lily, 7th grade student



*“I love my school and my teacher. My favorite classes are about Jesus and math.”*

Ruben, 3rd Grade  
St. Ann School, Bridgeport



*“My time in the Seminary  
was instrumental in helping  
me to hear God’s call to serve.”*

Fr. Leonel Medeiros,  
St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport



## VOCATIONS

The 2011 Annual Bishop’s Appeal supports St. John Fisher Seminary Residence, a diocesan house of discernment in Stamford, where men live for two to four years to study and pray about entering major seminary. We are blessed with more than 32 men currently preparing for the priesthood.

*“We are extremely blessed to have St. John Fisher Seminary Residence in the Diocese of Bridgeport, and this is definitely a big part of the reason we have so many vocations.”*

– Frank DeVito



## PARISH LIFE AND MINISTRIES

Through parish life and ministry programs, we share Jesus' message of hope. This year the St. Cyril of Jerusalem Program became available online, providing an opportunity for ongoing adult faith formation and catechist training.



*“The RCIA process offered an experience for me to share in a faith group while growing in Christ. The Catholic Church has truly blessed my life.”*

– Leslie Allaire, St. Joseph Parish, Shelton

*“Youth ministry is vital because young people need a place to come together and grow in their faith within the Church community.”*

– Carol Zinser, Youth Minister,  
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield



*“Adult formation programs trickle over into many ministries in the life of the parish and they strengthen the unity among its members. All adults, by virtue of our baptisms, have the duty to be solidly versed in the teachings of the Catholic Church.”*

– Gina Donnarummo, Director of Adult Formation



*“The Appeal funds necessary training and workshops for people of all ages to become Catholics.”*

Fr. Edicson Orozco, Pastor  
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport



## CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES

Our Priests, Sisters and Deacons serve the spiritual needs of inmates in two prisons; the elderly in nursing homes; the many international communities in our parishes; and infirmed and disabled in hospitals. Funds raised through the 2011 Annual Bishop's Appeal sustain retired priests at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence, provide ongoing development of Clergy and support our Permanent Diaconate program.



*“The confessions of the incarcerated are very different from the confessions they made as children. But the joy and excitement you see in prisoners faces when they receive the Lord in Holy Communion, so closely mirrors what we witness in children’s faces every spring in our parishes.”*

– Fr. Larry Carew, Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, Prison Ministry

*“I am grateful for my 51 years of ministry and for your continued care.”*

Msgr. Nicholas V. Grieco, Retired Clergy  
Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy  
Priests' Retirement Residence





*“The formation program at St. John Fisher Seminary is truly strengthening my resolve to serve as a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport.”*

– Harry Prieto

---

*“We currently have 19 men studying for the Permanent Diaconate Program and 87 active Deacons. They receive full theology and scripture training and much more. This ministry is a blessing to the Diocese and could not continue without the support of Bishop Lori and the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.”*

–Deacon Anthony J. Detje, Assistant Director of Clergy Personnel, Director of Deacons, Director of Permanent Deacon Formation

---



*“St. Ann, like all of the Catholic schools in Bridgeport, proves that the ‘achievement gap’ can be significantly narrowed.”*

– Theresa Tillinger, Principal, St. Ann School, Bridgeport

---

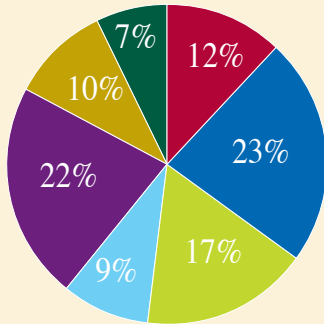
*“My school has good people and good teachers.”*

– Neala, 1st Grade, Cathedral Education Cluster



*“Your generosity to the Appeal enables our Order to care for the elderly and infirmed in nursing homes.”*

Sr. Maria Linh Nguyen  
Lovers of the Holy Cross of GoVap



## ALLOCATION OF \$12 MILLION GOAL

- 12% Catholic Charities
- 22% Clergy and Religious Ministries
- 23% Parish Ministries
- 10% Vocations
- 17% Catholic Education
- 7% Appeal Fundraising Expenses
- 9% Cluster Schools

## WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

**Pledges** - A gift to the Appeal may be paid through December 31, 2011.

**Gifts** - Checks may be made payable to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Please do not send cash.

**Credit Card** - A credit card gift may be payable online or by pledge card.

**Online Giving** - [www.2011ABA.com](http://www.2011ABA.com)

**Matching Gifts** - Many organizations will match gifts to Catholic Charities and Catholic Schools. Please contact 203-416-1312 for more information.

**Gifts of Securities** - If you own securities that have appreciated in value, they can be given to the Appeal and their full market value becomes a tax deductible gift. Please contact 203-416-1470 for more information.

*If you have questions, please e-mail us at: [aba@diobpt.org](mailto:aba@diobpt.org), or call us at: (203) 416-1472. All gifts to the 2011 Beacon of Hope Annual Bishop's Appeal will be acknowledged by Bishop William E. Lori and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult with your tax advisor on the tax treatment of all gifts, as they may vary from individual to individual.*



# Beacon of Hope

DIocese of BRIDGEPORT  
ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

## 2011 PRAYER REQUEST

You are invited to share prayer requests and special intentions with **Bishop Lori**, who will remember them specifically in his Masses and prayers.

Please pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

*Please detach this form and return it in the envelope provided  
or [www.bridgeportdiocese.com/prayerrequest](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/prayerrequest). God bless you.*

Photos by: Amy Mortensen, Pam Rittman  
Cover photo by: David Henkel



*Beacon of Hope*

DIocese of BRIDGEPORT  
ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

**2011**

GIVE ONLINE:

[www.2011ABA.com](http://www.2011ABA.com)