



# Catholic Faith Appeal 2024

“...faith of itself,  
if it does not have works,  
is dead.” Jm 2:17



Diocese of Venice  
in Florida



## *A Message from Bishop Dewane*



January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Scripture it is written, "...faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (Jm 2:17), affirming that true faith is one of love and generosity. Living according to our faith means doing the good works the Lord calls forth from us - work that glorifies God, demonstrates love for our neighbor, and fulfills our call to serve.

Your contribution towards the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) is a witness of living the Gospel more intentionally by supporting works of Mercy and Charity. Among the programs sustained by the CFA are evangelization initiatives, education for both children and adults in Faith, formation of future priests, and aid for religious sisters who serve those most in need. The CFA also includes funding housing for the homeless, seniors, as well as mothers and their children.

Diocesan ministries and programs funded by the CFA are highlighted in this brochure. It is my hope that you will put your "faith in action" through a generous gift to this year's Catholic Faith Appeal. Your on-going support is needed and deeply appreciated.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for your desire to help those among us in need. I assure you of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Frank J. Dewane*

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Venice in Florida





# Support for parishes, Missions, and Apostolates

**Parishes and Missions** provide a spiritual home for the Faithful to come together to worship, pray, and receive the Sacraments.



Generosity from parishioners allows opportunities for outreach to those in need in the local area. Additionally, parishes foster a sense of belonging and fellowship, creating a community of believers who can support one another in their faith journey.

These faith communities provide the chance for individuals to grow and serve as a source of spiritual support. Your partnership provides assistance for parishes and missions located in financially challenged areas.



The Diocese's **Hispanic and Haitian Apostolates** are important initiatives that evidence the Church's recognition and commitment to serving and supporting diverse populations throughout Southwest Florida.



These apostolates seek to address the spiritual, educational, social, and material needs of these communities, while at the same time promoting their well-being, integration, and empowerment within the larger Church and society. This is accomplished through Liturgical celebrations, cultural events, support groups and initiatives aimed to address the distinctive challenges faced. Unique contributions of multi-cultural populations make these local parishes truly vibrant communities.

The Diocese is blessed to celebrate Mass in 8 languages on any given Sunday.



In 2023 ...

- 195,354 individuals were fed through groceries acquired in a food pantry or hot meals from a soup kitchen.

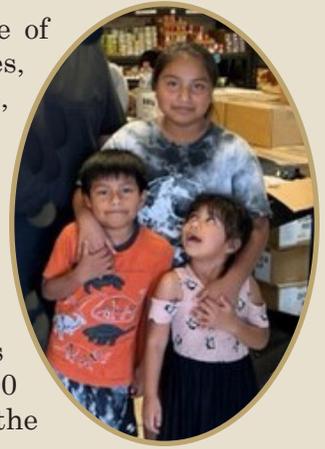
- 17,016 seniors had their needs assessed by a caseworker and were offered assistance with interpretation services, transportation, food, and community referrals in order to remain in their homes and live independently.

- 14,007 adults & children benefited from educational services which help to empower and build a brighter future.

- 5,020 victims of human trafficking received comprehensive case management and housing services.

- 3,840 adults & children obtained permanent or temporary housing.

**Catholic Charities, Inc.** of the Diocese of Venice provides a wide range of services, including emergency assistance, food and housing, counseling and mental health services, as well as programs for seniors and children.



Within a span of a year, **Casa Maria Soup Kitchen's** dedicated volunteers serve an average of 35,000 hot lunches each year to the impoverished and hungry.

**Our Mother's House** provides housing for mothers with children who are homeless. The program offers on-site child care and ensures that the mothers receive the professional training and resources they need to lead stable and independent lives. For children, an on-site "Early Head Start" program is available.

**Guadalupe Social Services** provides "The Clothing Room" which is open to anyone in the Immokalee community to choose items that have been donated. At the same site, "The Shower Program" serves the chronically homeless or individuals living in substandard housing. Those in need receive a change of clothes, hygiene products, a towel and, of course, access to clean showers.

The **Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center** assists low and moderate income families through various programs. An example is the "Weekend Power Pack Food Program" which provides homeless elementary students with food to sustain them through the weekend when school meals are not available.

Catholic Charities strives to create a safe and nurturing environment where individuals can regain stability and work towards a better tomorrow by providing affordable and transitional housing solutions. In addition to shelter, a wide array of support services are offered, including case management, financial assistance, and life skills development.



## *Catholic Charities*





The **Office of Marriage and Family Life** helps prepare men and women for their lifelong marriage vows through retreats, conferences, and Natural Family Planning classes. In an effort to continuously promote marriage, enrichment seminars are also offered for those already married.

**Witness to Love** is the marriage prep program being used for the formation of young engaged couples. This program integrates modern principles of psychology and builds upon virtues to help couples explore more deeply into their relationship with each other and the Lord.

This process is used as an evangelization tool in a way that truly renews trust among young Catholic couples, families, and the parish that becomes their new home. “Witness to Love” provides this process through leadership formation as well as through sacramental preparation and enrichment, ultimately, leading to parish renewal.

The annual **Together in Holiness Conference** provides an opportunity for married and engaged couples to spend quality time together. Inspiring



presentations by well known speakers, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Reconciliation are a part of the day.

The **Annual Anniversary Mass**, attended by over 600 couples yearly, celebrates 25 and more years of marriage. This special remembrance Mass honors those in attendance and serves as a testimony of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Through the **Bereavement Ministry**, suffering from the loss of life in a family is addressed. This group setting facilitates the expression of emotions through natural stages of grief.



## *Marriage and Family Life*





# Vocations and Seminarians



The **Office of Vocations** has the primary responsibility to foster and support individuals who feel called to serve the Church as priests or members of religious communities. This is accomplished through discernment retreats, prayer, reflection, and fellowship with others on a similar journey. The Office actively collaborates with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Catholic schools, and parishes in a joint effort to provide a nurturing environment for young people discerning a religious vocation.

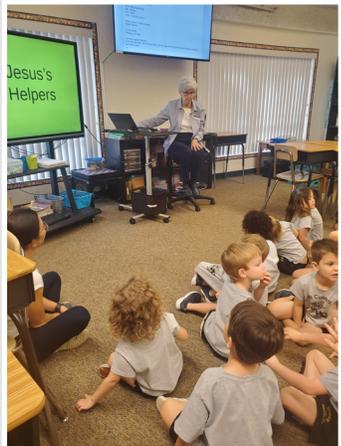
The formation process of **seminarians** involves several years of academic study, spiritual development, human formation, and pastoral training. These studies aim to provide a solid foundation in Catholic Theology and prepare them for the responsibilities of priesthood.



Seminarians experience life as a priest by assisting a pastor in a parish, bringing communion to shut ins, visiting the elderly, and serving the youth of the Dioceses during the summer months.



**Religious sisters** working within the Diocese of Venice have dedicated their lives to serving God and others through prayer, ministry, and various works of charity. They often serve as teachers, administrators, and directors of Religious Education. The sisters bring their spiritual commitment, virtues, and training to Catholic education, nurturing the intellectual, moral, and spiritual formation of youth. Often, they are assigned to locations where they can serve the most in need.



**The Permanent Diaconate Program** serves to facilitate the formation of men called to the roll of Permanent Deacon. Once ordained, these men receive pastoral care and ongoing formation.



# Evangelization and Retreat Centers

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of evangelization, and it is seen as a response to the great commission of Jesus to “...go and make disciples of all nations...” Not just about converting people to the Catholic faith, evangelization also involves publicly living out the faith so as to be a witness to others. At the Diocese of Venice, this is done through the **Office of Evangelization**.

Conferences, Bible study, Theology on Tap, and Eucharistic Congresses are just a few ways the Diocese brings hope, healing, and the opportunity for salvation to those in need in Southwest Florida.



Bringing the Joy and Truth of the Gospel to the new generation is the primary mission of the **Office of Youth and Young Adult Outreach**. It helps coordinate large scale Diocesan events and pilgrimages to help create opportunities for youth and young adults to grow closer to the Lord. This office offers guidance and support to parishes and schools to empower those ministering to young faithful.



deepen their faith, refocus on their spiritual lives, develop a relationship with Christ or encounter God in a peaceful and supportive environment.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Campo San José Retreat Centers** offer a variety of spiritual growth experiences for individuals and groups seeking to



Although heavily damaged by Hurricane Ian, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center is now open for individual, group, and parish retreats.

The Campo San José Retreat Center primarily hosts groups with the focus directed to spiritual enrichment and growth.



With assistance from the Diocesan **Department of Communications**, a televised Mass is made available weekly for the homebound, hospitalized, and all those unable to attend Mass at a local parish.

The **Office of Religious Education** oversees the faith formation of children and administering adult faith formation programs such as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Sacramental preparation ensures that individuals gain a solid understanding of the Church's teaching and liturgy, allowing them to fully participate in the mission and life of the Church.

On-going formation and support for catechetical leaders are offered through retreats, conferences, and workshops.

The **Catholic Schools Department** serves more than 6,200 students, a record breaking number, at 15 Catholic schools.



STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math) is integrated as the learning model in all classrooms. At the same time, the Diocesan curriculum called, "The Gifts of Christ: Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Affability, Fortitude, Humility, and Prudence is the norm. This approach enables students to develop cognitive thought processes and gain skills such as leadership, communication, complex problem solving, teamwork, and creativity.

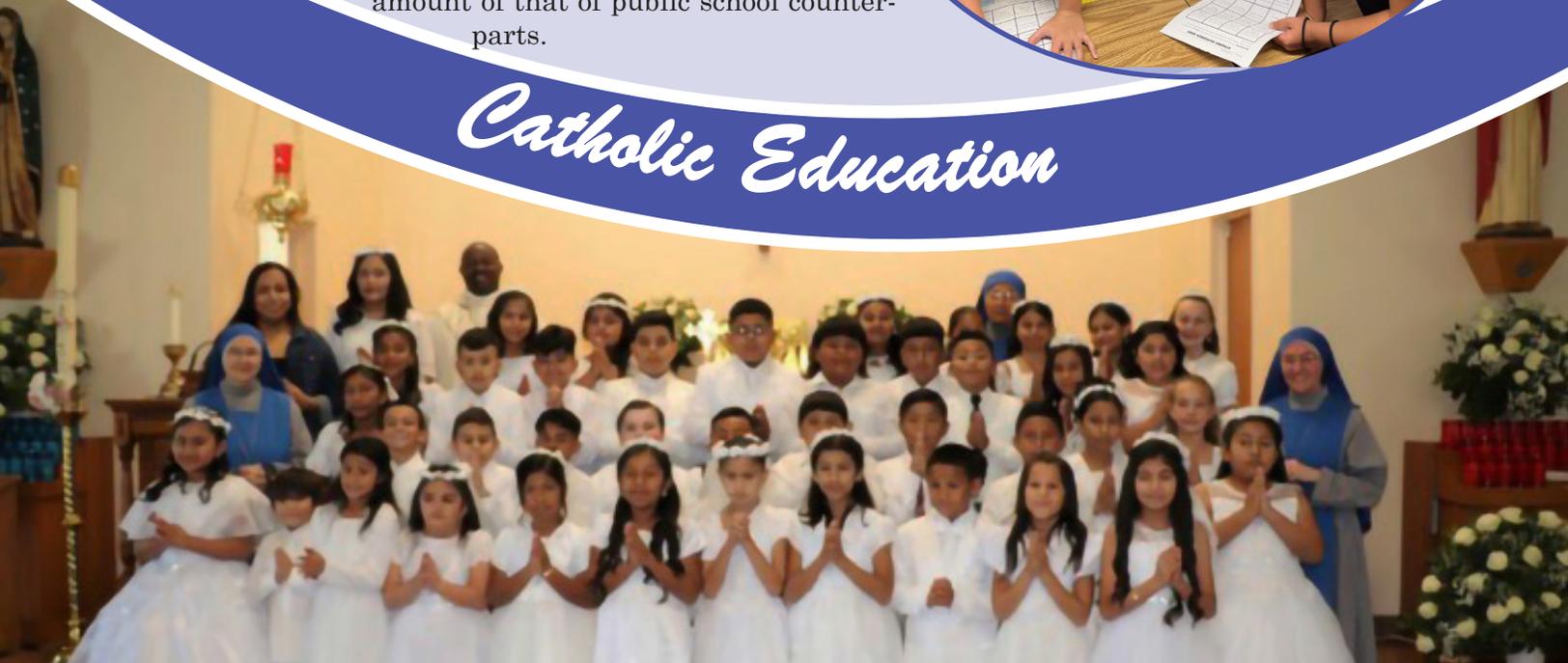


Catholic virtues are infused in every subject as well as promoted and practiced throughout the school environment.

The result is a 97% graduation rate with the remaining 3% of students entering the military or work force. In addition, students receive college scholarship awards that are three times the amount of that of public school counterparts.



## *Catholic Education*



**Administrative services** play a crucial role in fulfilling the mission of serving those in need and sharing the Gospel's joy. The Diocese of Venice relies on the collective efforts of clergy, dedicated staff members, and volunteers to achieve this mission.

At the Catholic Center, professionals in various fields provide direction and administrative services to parishes and schools. The following is a list of the offices and departments and how each one contributes to the work being accomplished at parishes, Schools, and the Church in Southwest Florida.

- The **Office of Human Resources** coordinates services including recruitment, employee relations, human resource policies, legal compliance, as well as benefit and pension administration.
- The **Internal Financial Services Department** provides support for parish bookkeepers and business managers to ensure compliance with Diocesan policies and procedures. The Department also oversees and coordinates financial reviews carried out by independent CPA firms every three years for all parishes, schools and missions.
- The **Worship Office** provides guidance for the development of liturgical celebrations, prayer, and music.
- The **Building Department** provides support in the areas of construction, renovations, facility management, and loss prevention. Following a natural disaster, this Department coordinates restoration activities for all Diocesan buildings.
- The **Safe Environment Program** educates all children and adults in initiatives and protocols designed to create a safe and secure environment.
- The **Finance Department** oversees support programs including employee benefits, self-insurance, and the Diocese of Venice Savings & Loan Trust Fund. The Department is also responsible for the financial administration of the Catholic Center's annual budget, which includes providing regular financial reporting to the Bishop and Diocesan Finance Council.



- The Diocesan **Marriage Tribunal** handles issues relating to marriage, such as dispensations that may be required for those preparing to get married, as well as annulments.
- Providing advice and recommendations based on the optimal technological configurations for projects is a primary responsibility of the **Office of Information Technology**.

- So as to reduce the exposure of liability, the **Risk and Insurance Office** provides educational workshops and implementation of policies and procedures to all Diocesan entities.

## *Administrative Services*



*Faith in Action*



# Making a Difference

## Ministry, Outreach, and Services: 45%

Evangelization • Youth & Young Adult Outreach • Office of Stewardship and Development • Respect Life Department • Worship Office • Parish Services • Hispanic Apostolate • Prison Outreach • Catholic Center Administrative Services • Marriage Tribunal • Inter-Religious Affairs and Ecumenism Office • Bishop's Office and Episcopal Duties • Marriage Preparation • Family Life Outreach • Haitian Apostolate • Campus Ministry • Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center • Campo San José Retreat Center

## Catholic Education: 22%

Catholic Schools Department • Office of Religious Education • Catholic School Subsidy

## Support of Parishes, Missions & Convents: 14%

Worship sites located in financially challenged communities

## Catholic Charities: 13%

Shelter for homeless mothers and their children • Affordable housing for veterans, seniors and families • Food pantries and kitchens • Counseling • Clothing banks • Shower Program for the homeless • Disaster Response and Recovery Program • After-School Reading Program • Head Start Program • Anti-Human Trafficking Programs

## Vocations and Clergy Support: 6%

Seminary Education and Formation • Permanent Diaconate Formation • Continuing Education for Clergy • Office of Religious Life

## MAKE A PLEDGE

Pledging allows you to make a more generous and affordable contribution.

The pledge can be spread out over ten months. You may pledge with the initial payment while the remaining balance can be donated anytime during the next nine months. The Diocese will send you monthly reminders.

### GIFT OPPORTUNITIES USING THE 10-PAYMENT PLAN

Gift Amount	Initial Payment	9 Monthly Payments
\$50,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
\$25,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
\$15,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
\$10,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 500
\$ 2,500	\$ 250	\$ 250
\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 50

*Thank you for your support!*

For additional information, please call 941-441-1130

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Check:** payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal

**IRA:** Although a required minimum distribution (RMD) starts at age 73, you may donate up to \$100,000 per year from your Individual Retirement Account tax free to a charitable cause as early as age 70½. Spouses may also participate to the same level if they have a separate IRA, giving married couples the opportunity to donate up to \$200,000. The funds must be paid directly to the CFA from your financial advisor in order to qualify.

**Credit or Debit Card:** Send us the information via the pledge card or visit [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org).

**Gift of Securities:** Federal law allows a charitable deduction for the full market value of the appreciated securities on the date of your gift.

## GIVING SOCIETIES

### Bishop's Cornerstone Society Gift Levels

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>\$25,000 and above</b>
<b>Pillar</b>	<b>\$10,000 to \$24,999</b>
<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$ 2,500 to \$ 4,999</b>

### Leadership Society Gift Levels

<b>Steward</b>	<b>\$1,500 to \$2,499</b>
<b>Angel</b>	<b>\$1,000 to \$1,499</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$ 500 to \$ 999</b>

**Give online! Visit us at [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parish ID/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check

*(Please make checks payable to **Catholic Faith Appeal**)*

Credit card/debit information enclosed  
*(Please see the reverse side)*

Stock

Name of stock: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Shares: \_\_\_\_\_

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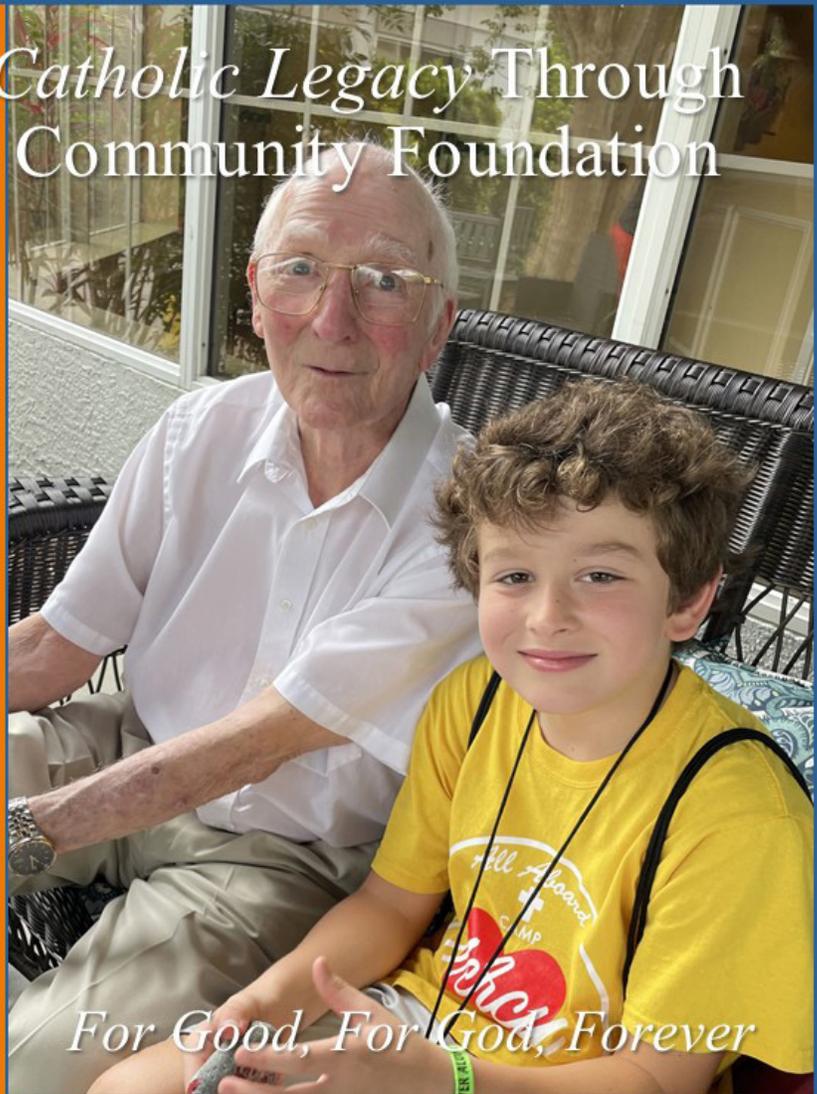


# Create Your *Catholic Legacy* Through the Catholic Community Foundation

The Catholic Community Foundation helps you support the current needs as well as the long-term sustainability of the Catholic Parishes, Schools, programs, and ministries that you love within the Diocese of Venice.

The Foundation works with you to find smarter ways to give, which will be more beneficial to you *and* the Catholic entity you want to support.

To learn more about creating your Catholic Legacy through a bequest in your will or trust or by way of other gifting options, please scan the QR Code or contact the Catholic Community Foundation by using the information below.



*For Good, For God, Forever*

941-441-1124 | [MORSE@DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG](mailto:MORSE@DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG) | 1000 PINEBROOK RD, VENICE, FL 34285  
[WWW.CCFDIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG](http://WWW.CCFDIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG)

For online giving, please visit [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) or for additional information about the CFA, please call 941-441-1130

### *Credit Card*

Please complete the information below.

Charge a *one time* gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge a *monthly* gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning on \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Month # of months  
(Not past December 2024)

Type:  Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Direct Debit*

Please include a **BLANK VOIDED CHECK**.

Withdraw a *monthly* gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning on \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Month # of months  
(Not past December 2024)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A blank voided check is required to process your gift.**

Please complete the front portion of this card.