



# SHARING

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
DIOCESE of FALL RIVER

*Whatsoever You Do!*

SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES EDITION

*My dear brothers and sisters:*

I am so pleased to share with you this special *Sharing* which contains information about some of our ministries that are supported by the 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal and a report on the usage of last year's funds.

We have a proud history of serving the poor and the needy in our Diocese in good times and in hard times. Our theme this year is taken from the Gospel of Matthew, wherein Jesus tells his disciples that what ever they did for the poor, the hungry, or the lonely, they did for him. Jesus' words are "Whatsoever you did..." Our call is to put that phrase in the present tense, for today and tomorrow. Therefore our call is "Whatsoever you do..."

It is much more than a semantic difference. It is our call to always be ready to serve.

I hope you do not see the Catholic Charities Appeal as a burden to any of us, but rather an opportunity to pray and give thanks, to share your gifts with others, and to serve one another.



Please know that I appreciate all that you do in your parishes to make the Gospel come alive to the young, the elderly, the poor, and those whose circumstances have left them in need of Christ's solace. This year for the first time we include the ministry of care for our retired and disabled priests as a component of the Appeal.

As I stated in my Pastoral Letter at Easter, we are Rebuilding our Diocese in Faith and Hope. We need all of us to do our part, through prayer and sacrificial contributions to create the vibrant and joyous parishes and schools that will draw souls to Christ.

May God Bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River

*"We have a proud history of serving the poor and the needy in our Diocese in good times and in hard times."*



# Lit by Love of God and Neighbor

The word “lit” has become a term of art in social media culture. If something or someone is “lit” they are cool, hip or novel. I would like to share with you the work of a remarkable group of students at Holy Name School in Fall River who have been lit by LIT.

LIT is an acronym for Leaders in Training. It is the idea of an extraordinary college senior, Dorothy Mahoney Pacheco, who has been spending a portion of her senior year volunteering at Holy Name along with Aidan Corey a senior at Bishop Connolly High School. Pacheco conceived of the program based upon the leadership training she has experienced as an Endeavor Scholar at UMASS Dartmouth

At Holy Name the Leaders in Training program is a voluntary activity open to students from Grade 8 down to Grade 5.

The LIT team took it upon themselves to learn about homelessness in their midst. They scheduled a visit to a local shelter; they met and learned about the circumstances that bring a family to homelessness.

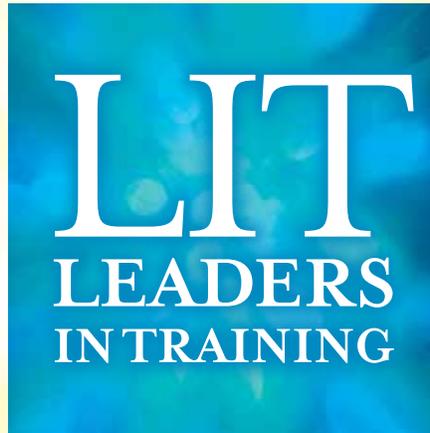
Upon returning from their visit these young leaders in training had many questions. Principal among them was “What can we do to help?” The same question we ask ourselves in response to Jesus’ charge to the Apostles questioning “When did we see you hungry Lord?” The answer? Whatsoever you do for the least of these, you do for me. As you would expect from young leaders, they responded with a practical answer. They organized a drive to provide toothbrushes for all the children in the shelter they visited.

One day this past March I was invited to meet the class along with Nancy Lawson, the director of homeless services for Catholic Social Services. I listened as Nancy gave a beautiful talk about the depth and breadth of ways we as Church respond to the needs of young adults, older men and women and families who are homeless.

Nancy answered questions about how homelessness happens, explaining that unexpected loss, mental illness, fire, loss of a job or substance abuse are all causes that may result in need for shelter. She said that CSS is positioned to meet the person or family, assess their needs, coordinate the appropriate resources and follow through with them.

One student, Isabelle Moniz, was moved to start a drive after the success of the toothbrush effort. She and the Leaders in Training have started “Backpacks to Learn and Grow.” She has set a goal of filling 250 backpacks for the children of families living in shelters or transitional housing through Catholic Social Services so that when they return to school in September, they will have all the supplies they need to succeed.

Their efforts and the depth of their concern for the poorest of their brothers and sisters were truly moving. It left me proud of the panorama of care that our faith impels us to engage in. It left me determined to help Isabella fill those backpacks. It left me in awe of the drive and insight of the professionals who commit their lives to service. It left me hopeful for our future with people like Dorothy and Aidan coming along to assume the mantle of leadership for our society. In short, it left me LIT!



Anchor columnist James Campbell is director of the Diocesan Development Office/Catholic Charities Appeal/Foundation to Advance Catholic Education.

Article edited and reprinted with permission from *The Anchor*.

# God's Grace and Love Knows No Bounds

It has been my joy and honor to be the Director of the Pro-Life Apostolate and Project Rachel for the last 12 years and to have served this ministry, in the Fall River Diocese, for a total of 24 years. I am most grateful to those who support the yearly Catholic Charities Appeal. Without you, this ministry would not be possible. I would like to share some insight with you on one aspect of this ministry..

A few years ago I was contacted by a young woman whose friend was considering an abortion. Her voice was frantic, the appointment had been made and she had exhausted all of her words and resources to discourage her friend from taking this road. She asked if I would be willing to speak with her. Of course but I would first need her friend's permission to call her. After my petition of prayer to the Holy Spirit and a few hours of anxious waiting, her friend agreed to accept my call.

We began to discuss the pregnancy and her appointment for the following day. She was quite knowledgeable about the abortion process, and she was sure this was her final decision. In the course of our conversation, I had discovered she was not a Catholic. I could hear in her voice she was just about done with our conversation. I became very quiet, unusual for me, and I began to pray silently to the Holy Spirit for my final words to her. Without consciously choosing these words, I heard myself ask, "Would you be willing to speak to a Catholic priest?" Profound silence, I felt foolish, she had told me she was not a Catholic. Then, the most incredible response of "yes"

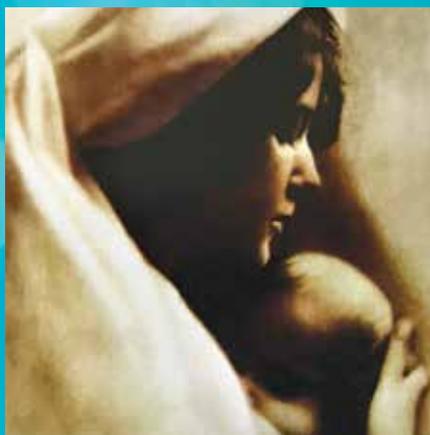
came across my phone line. I was so stunned, she had just told me her decision was made, it was final, she was done talking about it. But now, a sign of hope...thank you Holy Spirit!

I told her I would get back to her shortly. I prayed fervently ...who I would ask to speak with her? Prayer answered, the meeting was set. I encouraged Father, as part of his conversation with her, to ask her about her most immediate need or concern. Thank God for the gift of our priests. Everything happened so quickly.

When asked, she answered her immediate need was to finish school and begin a career. This would not be possible, according to her, if she had a child. Father offered daycare for the child, provided by funds raised through

his parish. She agreed!! A beautiful baby was born! I was invited to hold that child in my arms and tears stained my cheeks. I was so grateful to everyone who made that incredible moment possible. I was grateful to all of you for allowing me to serve, in your place, this incredible ministry of life.

God's grace and love knows no bounds. She eventually entered into the Catholic Church! This is truly evangelization in its fullest sense. Prayer, words, actions and love poured out upon her and her child by a community of faith. God cannot be outdone in His generosity and ability to profoundly change lives. All our lives...we just must be willing to let Him work through us and sacrifice a little for a friend in need so a baby can feel the warmth, love and comfort of his mothers arms.



Marian Desrosiers is the Director of the Pro-Life Apostolate and Project Rachel Office for the Diocese of Fall River. She has been in the office since 1993. She is a member of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference Family Life/Pro-Life Subcommittee and has served on the NCHLA Board of Directors since 2013, which is located in Washington DC. Marian and her husband Joe are the parents of six children and seven grandchildren.

## Earlier this year Catholic Social Services

took over the administration of a shelter in downtown Hyannis. In a short time both the town councilor and Police Chief were moved to comment on the positive changes to the program.

*"It's a work in progress and I'm happy to be here. I like to think that we are making a difference here and making a difference for them, most of all."*

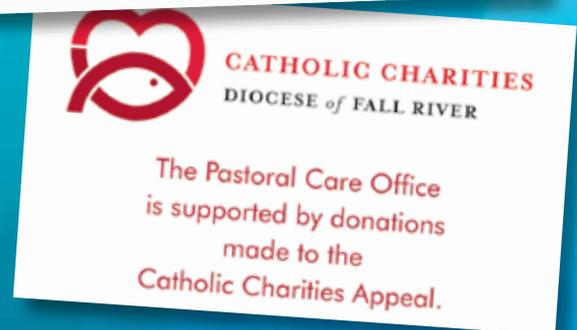
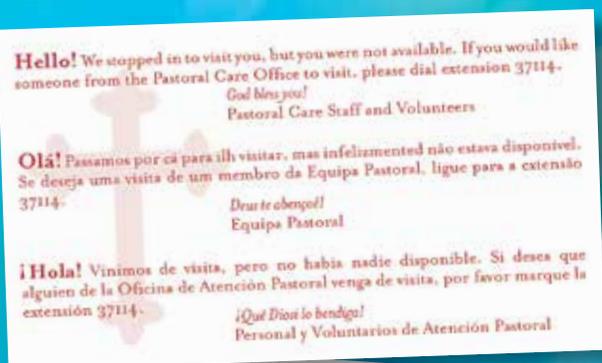
Karen Ready, Program Coordinator



*Our cards are a  
welcome reminder to  
patients that are away  
from their rooms*

that the Chaplains are available. We greatly appreciate the support of Catholic Charities donors towards our ministry of care for the sick.

Father Jason Brillhante



*The Barnstable Police Department has been dealing with a homeless population for more than 30 years in the community and just in the short time that Catholic Social Services has taken it over, we've seen some dramatic changes both in the appearance of the building and the way homeless people are treated on the street. We are truly, truly impressed with the progress they've made and we really appreciate it."*

**Chief MacDonald, Barnstable Police Chief.**

*The Anchor, February 10, 2017*

*"They've been really great at addressing the community needs and proving the shelter can be a community partner. They're really dealing with the underlying problem and not just putting a Band-Aid on things.*

**Jennifer L. Cullum, Barnstable Town Councilor**

*The Cape Cod Times, April 19, 2017*



*"I just want to say thank you to everyone involved in this mission of helping people in need. That's what the Church is here for."*

**Bishop da Cunha**

*My brother priests and I are sincerely grateful for your support,*

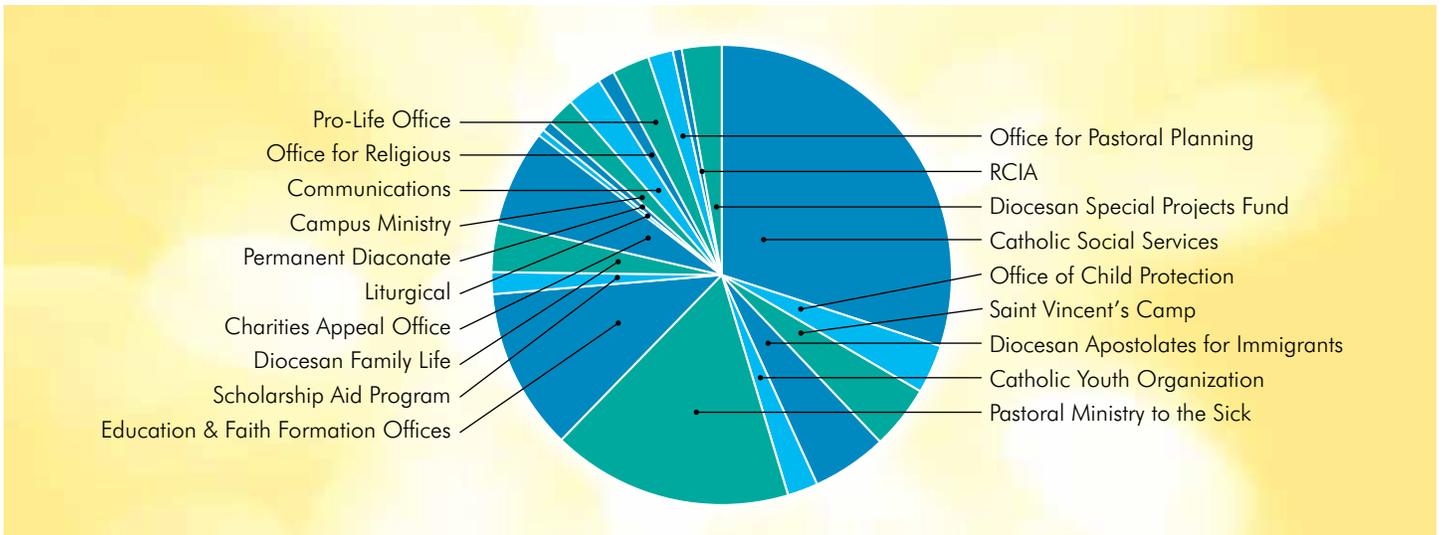
*not just the portion that will help us in our retirement but for the majority of the funds which help thousands of people in need. Please be assured of our continuing prayers of gratitude."*

**Monsignor Thomas J. Harrington**



**DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES / 2016 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL**

|                                                                                |                |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>I. TOTAL 2016 APPEAL RAISED</b>                                             |                | <b><u>\$4,630,224</u></b> |
| <b>II. DISBURSEMENTS, Made or Allocated Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016</b> |                |                           |
| <b>(1) SOCIAL SERVICE &amp; CHILD CARE</b>                                     |                |                           |
| a. Catholic Social Services                                                    | 1,359,459      |                           |
| b. Office of Child Protection                                                  | 194,163        |                           |
| c. Saint Vincent's Camp                                                        | 205,000        |                           |
| d. Diocesan Apostolates for Immigrants                                         | 178,500        |                           |
| e. Catholic Youth Organization                                                 | <u>87,500</u>  |                           |
|                                                                                |                | <b>\$2,024,622</b>        |
| <b>(2) APOSTOLATES TO THE SICK</b>                                             |                |                           |
| a. Pastoral Ministry to the Sick                                               | <u>766,400</u> |                           |
|                                                                                |                | <b>\$766,400</b>          |
| <b>(3) EDUCATION</b>                                                           |                |                           |
| a. Education and Faith Formation Offices                                       | 515,800        |                           |
| b. Scholarship Aid Program                                                     | <u>70,000</u>  |                           |
|                                                                                |                | <b>\$585,800</b>          |
| <b>(4) PASTORAL ENDEAVORS</b>                                                  |                |                           |
| a. Diocesan Family Life                                                        | 154,200        |                           |
| b. Charities Appeal Office                                                     | 373,968        |                           |
| c. Liturgical                                                                  | 2,046          |                           |
| d. Permanent Diaconate                                                         | 20,000         |                           |
| e. Campus Ministry                                                             | 92,378         |                           |
| f. Communications                                                              | 113,693        |                           |
| g. Office for Religious                                                        | 40,538         |                           |
| h. Pro-Life Activities                                                         | 120,000        |                           |
| i. Office for Pastoral Planning                                                | 161,868        |                           |
| j. RCIA                                                                        | 28,000         |                           |
| k. Diocesan Special Projects Fund                                              | <u>146,711</u> |                           |
|                                                                                |                | <b><u>\$1,253,402</u></b> |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS MADE OR ALLOCATED</b>                                   |                | <b><u>\$4,630,224</u></b> |



SHARING is published by the Development Office of the Diocese of Fall River.