

This year, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal goal is \$10 Million.



Please join us as we are *Moved by Mercy* in sharing your gift with others today.

WE ARE



545,980 Catholics



185,901 Households



210 Parishes and Missions



1 Archdiocese

All gifts to the 2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal are tax deductible as provided by law.

GIVE ONLINE – Please visit <http://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org> to make a one-time gift or pledge online payment. Please call the Archbishop's Annual Appeal Office at (800) 781-2550 for additional assistance.

CHECKS – Kindly mail the enclosed gift/pledge card in the envelope provided to P.O. Box 28, Hartford, CT 06141-0028. Checks are payable to the *Archbishop's Annual Appeal*.

CREDIT CARD – Please provide your credit card details on your pledge card to make a one-time gift or monthly pledge payment.

PLEGGED GIFTS – A gift to the Appeal may be paid over five months. Please consider including your first month's payment with your pledge card.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS – Every year several local companies give generously to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal through matching gift programs. By matching, businesses are assured that their charitable resources support causes that are important to their employees. Please contact your Human Resources Department to determine if your company will match your gift.

Please contact the Office of Development at (860) 547-0513 for further information on the following:

- Wills & Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Stock Transfer
- Charitable Remainder Trusts



SCAN HERE TO MAKE A GIFT BY SMARTPHONE

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MOVED BY **MERCY**

2017 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last year Pope Francis challenged us to live ever more faithfully and generously one of the most fundamental truths of the Gospel, namely, that we be “merciful even as our heavenly Father is merciful.” Who among us can live without mercy from God and from one another? 2017 presents us with new challenges, and new opportunities, to exercise mercy—spiritually, morally and materially. That is why **Moved by Mercy** was chosen the theme for this year’s **Archbishop’s Annual Appeal**. Thanks to your generous support, our archdiocesan family of faith can maintain, and hopefully expand, the works of mercy that support, enrich, nurture, and foster the spiritual and material wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities throughout Hartford, New Haven, and Litchfield Counties.

I invite you to open wide your heart, and to share generously your time, talent, and treasure, in order to bear witness to the love and mercy that God has shown to you.

This brochure illustrates just some of the ways that **Moved by Mercy** applies the Gospel to everyday life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Who among us can live without mercy from God and from one another?

Supporting those in need

THE UNITED STATES IS IN THE MIDST OF A DRUG EPIDEMIC. The number of Connecticut families affected by the current epidemic continues to rise at an alarming rate. In 2012, 86 Connecticut residents died a heroin related death. In 2015, 723 people died from drug overdoses and 415 of those deaths (57%) involved heroin. Since 2012, the number of heroin-related deaths has increased by 383%! On average, two people die of a drug overdose every day in Connecticut and more people die from overdoses than in car accidents or by gunshot.

Across the United States nearly 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the fourth leading preventable cause of death in the United States. In Connecticut in 2015, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 103 of the 266 traffic fatalities (39 percent of overall driving fatalities). According to a 2012 study, more than 10 percent of U.S. children live with a parent who abuses alcohol.

THANKS TO THE GENEROUS DONORS TO THE ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL, together we are able to help support treatment programs run through Catholic Charities and other local outreach programs that tackle these issues head on.



Wellmore of Waterbury is one of the many programs that have received funding in part through the Vicariate Outreach Program. Gary Steck of Wellmore stated:

“Addiction affects every social class, every race, every ethnicity, from your neighbor, to your neighbor’s kids, to the homeless, and in every community of Connecticut. When people come for treatment and care, it starts with hope. They have faith and hope that this is the right time. They need to be surrounded by other people that can help them, guide them, and to give them that nudge. Donors to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal are the lifeblood that keep us in place. They literally are the faith and hope and they’re the support, they’re the beginning of the path way to recovery.”

Gary Steck of Wellmore

For statistics sources please see: archdioceseofhartford.org/archbishops-annual-appeal



Enriching and nurturing those in need

FAMILY LIFE — Since 1997, the **Vicariate Outreach Program** has distributed more than \$14 million, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Appeal donors. Last year, more than \$1 million was allocated to parish-identified charities in Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield counties. This funding provided support to families and individuals for life’s basic necessities: a warm meal, a bag of groceries and a place to sleep. ImmaCare, Food Share, Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation, and South Park Inn - Homeless Shelter are four of the Hartford area charities that put your Appeal gift to great use.

Additionally, the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal helps fund *Family Centers* operated by Catholic Charities throughout the Archdiocese which take a two-generational approach to preventing poverty by optimizing support for families and children. In Hartford, Asylum Hill Family Center provides programs that aid families in crisis – families facing eviction, have nothing to eat, or are looking for employment. Not only does staff attempt to solve the immediate problem, but they look to determine the cause. Through a variety of parent engagement programs, such as the Parent Ambassadors initiative, families are educated and empowered to be their own best advocate. Moureen Bish, Program Director, says that with funding from the Appeal, “We’re able to remove some of these barriers for families, so they can resolve the immediate crises and focus on being their child’s best teacher.”

Fostering the future of the Catholic Church

VOCATIONS — Can you imagine life without Priests? Our priests are there for the most joyous times in our lives and they offer strength during the saddest times as well. The Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Hartford is committed to fostering quality, faith-filled and lasting vocations to the priesthood. There are currently nineteen men in formation for priesthood in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Three are scheduled to be ordained in May of 2017. It is through the Office of Vocations that young men discerning the priesthood can find financial and spiritual support needed during their formation process. Reverend Jeffrey Gubbiotti, Director of Vocations, conveyed, “We are so grateful to all the donors to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal for supporting our work in the Vocations Office and for allowing our seminarians to freely discern what God’s plan is for them in their lives. Thank you!”

