

# IN THE ONE, WE ARE ONE

IN ILLO UNO UNUM



2026 MINISTRY GUIDE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Teaching, Evangelizing and Worship</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ministering to the Poor, the Sick and the Incarcerated</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Promoting, Preparing and Supporting the Clergy</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Nurturing and Strengthening Families</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Special Grants</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Aid to Poor Parishes</b>	<b>19</b>





# TEACHING, EVANGELIZING AND WORSHIP

Ministries charged with this mission administer the largest private school system in Texas and sustain numerous religious education programs serving more than 100,000 people of all ages. They also promote the Catholic faith, reach out to other faiths, advocate for social justice and support liturgical and musical ministries throughout the Archdiocese.

**Your donation to DSF will support these *Teaching, Evangelizing and Worship* ministries:**

- Apostleship of the Sea
- Catholic Schools Office
- Chapels (Holy Cross and Warren)
- Communications Office
- Ecumenism Commission
- Office of Evangelization and Catechesis
- Office of Worship
- Pastoral and Educational Ministry

## **APOSTLESHP OF THE SEA - REVEREND JAN KUBISA, REVEREND CARLOS DE LA TORRE, DEACON JEFFREY WILLARD**

The Seafarer Centers exist to serve the spiritual and social concerns of the 300,000 seafarers from around the world who arrive at the area ports each year, as well as the local fishers and shrimpers. The Apostleship of the Sea Port Chaplains, appointed by the Archdiocese, are responsible for the sacramental care for Catholic seafarers and the pastoral care of all seafarers. In the recent COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers have not been able to leave their ships including to go home after their contracts. Port chaplains have been visiting to bring them comfort and care during this difficult time. The Archdiocese helps operate three seafarers' centers in Houston, La Porte and Galveston.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE - MAZIE MCCOY, ED.D.**

The Catholic Schools Office (CSO) serves the largest private school system in Texas. The CSO provides support to pastors and principals in 55 schools in the areas of accreditation, administration, assessment, catechist certification, curriculum development, facilities, finance, best practices in instruction, personnel, religious certification, serving the needs of all students, and technology. The CSO is responsible for implementing and supervising the accreditation process, helping schools in their participation in federal program opportunities, overseeing budgeting, providing leadership in staff development, supporting governance structures, and affirming parents in their role as the primary educators of their children. The CSO exists to support school pastors, principals, teachers, and communities as they work together to form students as they grow in holiness and become disciples of Jesus Christ that will transform the world.

### ***• Catholic High School Scholarship Grants***

All private Catholic high schools within the Archdiocese receive an annual DSF grant to provide tuition assistance to applying students. These schools include: Cristo Rey College Preparatory, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Frassati Catholic High School, Incarnate Word Academy, O'Connell College Preparatory School, St. Agnes Academy, St. Catherine Montessori High School, St. John XXIII College Preparatory, St. Peter Catholic - A Career and Technical High School, St. Pius X High School, St. Thomas High School, and Strake Jesuit College Preparatory.

## **CHAPELS**

- **Holy Cross Chapel – Reverend Jerome L. Jung**

This ministry provides sacramental and pastoral care to the downtown Houston working community. Open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, the Chapel offers two lunch-time Masses daily, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction throughout the day. Other spiritual, educational, and cultural activities seek to imbue the professions with the Spirit of Christ.

- **Warren Chapel – Most Reverend Italo Dell'Oro, C.R.S.**

Located at St. Dominic Center, this chapel is the site of daily Mass for the residents of St. Dominic Village's continuing care and retirement community. Retired priests generously give of their time to provide this spiritual nourishment to the faithful. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as well as exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are celebrated regularly with residents. The chapel is available to Archdiocesan groups for retreat Masses, jubilee celebrations and days of prayer.

## **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE – JONAH DYCUS**

The Archdiocesan Communications Office is responsible for communicating all official news and information about the Archdiocese. The office's mission is to share the Gospel message of God's boundless love with Catholics and non-Catholics alike, through words of hope, images of Christ's work and modern communication tools. The Communications Office serves as the official "voice" of the Archdiocese on issues related to the Catholic Church and on Archdiocesan events, programs and services. It also facilitates official Chancery communication with Archdiocesan parishes, schools, offices and departments.

The Communications Office is divided into the following branches:

- **Internal Communications**

Internal Communications is responsible for: Archdiocesan advertising (in the Texas Catholic Herald and in external publications); Archdiocesan internal communications tools and branding; the annual Archdiocesan Directory; monitoring the official use of Archdiocesan images by internal and external parties; the Chancery Copy Center; and the Chancery Mail Room.

- **Media Relations**

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston offers a variety of resources to credentialed members of the print and broadcast news media regarding the events, people and parishes that make up the Archdiocese. The Communications Office is the point of contact for all credentialed media inquiries and provides information to the press, arranging for all media interviews regarding local Catholic news. The office prepares and distributes statements and other resources to the media, responds to media queries and credentials media for coverage of major Archdiocesan events.

- **Radio**

The Office of Radio Ministry produces and distributes original Catholic programs for local broadcast in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The content of the programming is based on the Scriptures and the Liturgical Calendar. The Office of Radio Ministry promotes diverse Archdiocesan events such as conferences, retreats and activities to the general public.

- **Texas Catholic Herald**

The Texas Catholic Herald is the official newspaper of the Archdiocese, carrying news, feature stories and columns about local, national and world events to approximately 75,000 subscribers in the 10-county area of the Archdiocese. It is also an instrument of the Archdiocese for informing and educating readers about the teachings of the Church.

- **Website/Social Media**

The Website and Social Media division of Communications is responsible for developing and maintaining the official website of the Archdiocese, [www.archgh.org](http://www.archgh.org). This site provides information on all official Archdiocesan departments and their programs, as well as basic data on parishes and Catholic schools of the local Church. The Website division guides official social networking efforts for the Archdiocese and provides support for Archdiocesan departments employing social media in their ministries.

## **OFFICE OF ECUMENICAL & INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS (OEIA) – REVEREND ORRIN HALEPESKA**

The OEIA strives to foster the ecumenical goals of Christian unity and to deepen interreligious relations with Jews, Muslims, and followers of other religious traditions. The OEIA commits to promoting knowledge and understanding among all religious traditions through prayer, dialogue, formation, and collaboration in civic undertakings, with the primary goal of forming the Catholic faithful in Church teachings on matters of ecumenical and interreligious affairs. The OEIA Commission of volunteers works directly with Fr. Orrin Halepeska, the Ecumenical Officer, and the Parish Ecumenical & Interreligious Representatives (PEIRs) in developing and implementing the work of the OEIA.

## **OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS – AMY AUZENNE**

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis assists catechetical leaders in parishes and schools in furthering the catechetical-evangelical mission of a family-oriented, multi-ethnic Church of adults, youth and children. It provides services to enable each person's faith to become living, conscious and active through a lens of lifelong faith formation.

- **After School Catechesis in Public Schools**

After School Catechesis in Public Schools help parishes set up programs in their community schools, providing an opportunity to reach children and youth not in parish catechesis. This benefits parishes which may lack sufficient space for their catechetical needs and parents who cannot provide transportation from school to parish. Parishes sponsoring After School Catechesis have found a significant increase of families actively participating in parish catechesis and Sunday Eucharist.

- **Formation toward Christian Ministry/Formacion Para el Ministerio Cristiano**

Formation toward Christian Ministry offers theological formation for various parish ministries for all adults. Knowledge of Scripture, Spirituality, Sacraments, Church History and Doctrine is covered so that parish ministers may better serve their parish communities. The program is three semesters in length, and is taught by approved catechists who hold a Master's Degree in Theology. It is available in various parishes throughout the Archdiocese in English or Spanish.

- **Lifelong Systematic Faith Formation**

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis trains and supports catechetical leaders who provide formation in the faith across the life cycle for our parishes and schools in accordance with the promulgated document, "A Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation." The office emphasizes that we always need to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. We must continue to grow in our knowledge of our Catholic faith, and nurture our spirituality so that we can be witnesses to our brothers and sisters in our evangelizing efforts to pass on the faith. The office provides leader formation in the Archdiocesan Catechetical Curriculum.

- **Ministry Formation Programs**

Ministry Formation Programs form our catechetical leaders and catechists in their own knowledge of the faith and methodologies to teach at all levels of the life cycle in their parish and school faith formation processes. We offer programs for the beginner as well as the advanced catechist and leader. Programs are available in both English and Spanish. The OEC is a certifying agent for the USCCB Leadership Certification in Catechesis.

- **Ministry with Persons with Disabilities**

Ministry with Persons with Disabilities assists parishes in opening their doors to invite, welcome and accept persons with disabilities into the full life of the Church. Presentations inform how to provide religious formation and sacramental preparation in ways that best serve persons with different learning abilities.

- **Sacramental Preparation Programs**

Sacramental Preparation Programs offer formation for parish leaders, clergy and team members who prepare families for Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Adult Confirmation.

- **Partnerships**

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis works in partnership with the School of Theology at the University of St. Thomas to provide scholarships to those parish catechetical leaders who may be interested in obtaining a MA in Theology by enrolling in UST in either the English or the Spanish process. Also a partner is the University of Dayton Virtual Learning platform where leaders can continue their formation on theological or educational topics on a college level virtual platform.



## **OFFICE OF WORSHIP – ADAM BRILL**

The Office of Worship supports the Church's mission to make liturgy the source of spiritual growth and development of the Church. The Office of Worship serves as a resource center for liturgical ministry materials, ministry formation and consultation.

- **Archdiocesan Choir**

This mixed chorus of approximately 50 voices serves to provide liturgical music in the celebration of designated Archdiocesan liturgies. The Archdiocesan Choir strives to act as a model liturgical choir for Parish Music Ministries throughout the Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan Choir membership represents over 35 parishes from the Archdiocese, and is accepted by auditions held annually by its artistic director.

- **Consultation**

The Office of Worship provides consultation to parish leaders regarding liturgical norms and practices. Additionally, the office is available as a resource on the building and renovation of liturgical space.

- **Formation**

Workshop opportunities are offered for the formation and training of liturgical leaders, parish ministers, instituted acolytes and RCIA teams. Annual resources and other formation materials are available through the office. The office publishes The Year of Grace for those responsible for liturgical preparation.

- **Liturgical Commission**

As required by Church law, the Liturgical Commission is an advisory board to the Archbishop and is a consultative body on liturgical matters in the Archdiocese. It also provides advisory support for the Southwest Liturgical Conference Board of Directors and the Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week.

- **Liturgy**

The office is responsible for overseeing and coordinating Archdiocesan liturgical celebrations such as the Chrism Mass and ordinations. The office also reviews all liturgies at which the Archbishop presides as well as liturgies for the assisting bishops. The office is responsible for the Archdiocesan inventory of vestments. The office coordinates liturgies for regional and national conferences celebrated in the Archdiocese.

## **PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY – JIM BARRETTE**

- **Archdiocesan Pastoral Council**

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council engages the diverse faithful of the Archdiocese with the Archbishop in consultative dialogue. The council addresses significant pastoral needs and concerns through investigation, reflection and feedback. Through these actions, this representative body of the laity, religious and clergy assists in the articulation of a vision and proposes long term plans to develop the faith community and to assist the Archbishop in his shepherding of the Church of Galveston-Houston.

- **Archdiocesan Committee on Catholic Youth Organizations**

This committee promotes the Catholic faith and teachings to youth involved in Scouting and other youth organizations by sponsoring Catholic Religious Award programs that recognize the youth for knowing and practicing their Catholic Faith. The committee also provides training for the adult leaders of youth organizations to help guide them in aligning the programs of their organizations with the teachings of the Catholic faith.

- **Evangelization Commission**

The Evangelization Commission is responsible for the development, oversight and evaluation of new evangelization initiatives in the Archdiocese. The commission distributes materials to each pastor to assist him in maintaining an evangelizing focus in all parish activities.

- **Parish Pastoral Council Training**

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) provides assistance with council member discernment and consultation with pastors on the development of the PPC in their parish. Each year two workshops are offered for training council members in the basics of Parish Pastoral Council development and in special topics of interest.

- **Capernaum**

An online system which allows archdiocesan personnel to curate resources for online formation and training of catechists, parish catechetical leaders as well as Catholic School personnel with great potential to expand. This digital platform has been developed in a collaborative effort with the Secretariat for Catholic Schools.





# MINISTERING TO THE POOR, THE SICK AND THE INCARCERATED

Answering the call to serve the least among us, these ministries bring pastoral and sacramental aid to the disadvantaged, the disabled, and those who are most in need of God's healing grace. Whether comforting refugees or battered women, those confined to a prison cell or hospital bed, they show compassion to those on the margins of our society.

---

**Your donation to DSF will support these  
*Ministering to the Poor, the Sick and the Incarcerated* ministries:**

- **Angela House**
- **Catholic Chaplain Corps**
- **Catholic Charities**
- **Correctional Ministries**
- **Foreign Missions**
- **Office of Justice & Peace/Catholic**
- **Campaign for Human Development**
- **Our Daily Bread**
- **San José Clinic**
- **Special Youth Services**
- **St. Dominic Center for the Deaf**

---

## **ANGELA HOUSE - VALENCIA LEWIS**

The mission of Angela House is to successfully transition women into the community from incarceration. Founded in 2001 by Maureen O'Connell, OP, this transitional, residential facility provides emotional, spiritual and educational support for women seeking to change their lives as they return to the community and voluntarily choose to reside at Angela House. This ministry also provides a unique opportunity for members of the Archdiocesan community to play a role in welcoming the women through a variety of volunteer opportunities.

## **CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN CORPS (HOSPITAL MINISTRY) - ROMANI PERERA**

Continuing its historic tradition, the Catholic Chaplain Corps (CCC) provides sacramental and pastoral care to the patients, families and staff of hospitals and institutions of the Texas Medical Center, plus other hospitals, nursing homes and inpatient hospices throughout the Archdiocese. In addition to its exemplary staff of Priests and Lay Chaplains, the CCC equips and supports Catholic laypersons to serve as Pastoral Visitors, who address spiritual and emotional needs through empathetic listening, intercessory prayer and relevant scripture. The CCC continues to provide vibrant and effective ministry in urgent and nonemergency pastoral situations.

## **CATHOLIC CHARITIES - VACANT**

Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities helps people in southeast Texas by providing caring, compassionate services and advocating for social justice in collaboration with parishes and communities. We guide people to self-sufficiency and help them live with dignity. Our four impact areas are listed below:

### **• Nurturing and Caring for Children**

Blessed Beginnings Life Center; St. Jerome Emiliani's Foster Care; St. Michael's Home for Children; School Counseling Services; School Program for Refugee Children

- **Strengthening Families**

Family Assistance Program; Counseling and Behavioral Health Clinic; Parish Social Ministry and Social Justice; Disaster Recovery Program; Stable Homes Program

- **Supporting Immigrants and Refugees**

Refugee Resettlement; St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance

- **Promoting Independence for Seniors, Veterans, and Others**

Senior Program; Women Veterans Program and the Villa Guadalupe Short-Term Shelter

- **Area Locations**

Mamie George Community Center; Beacon of Hope Center – Galveston and Texas City

## **CORRECTIONAL MINISTRIES – DEACON ALVIN LOVELADY**

The priests, deacons and lay volunteers provide sacramental and pastoral care to those victimized by crime and violence, as well as the nearly 60,000 men and women who are incarcerated in two federal facilities, 22 state prison units, and 10 county jails located within the boundaries of the Archdiocese.

## **FOREIGN MISSIONS – MOST REVEREND ITALO DELL'ORO, C.R.S.**

This fund provides financial grants to religious orders and congregations which have a representation in the Archdiocese and are engaged in missionary activity in other countries.

## **OFFICE OF JUSTICE & PEACE/CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – FRANCELLE LEE**

A program of the Secretariat for Social Concerns, The Office of Justice and Peace promotes the social mission of the Church. Through communication, collaboration, education, resource development and direct advocacy, the Office of Justice and Peace seeks to promote the common good, rooting initiatives in the reality that each person is created by God, for relationship with God and in community with others. In addition, the office facilitates opportunities for the Catholic faithful to act on the social teachings of the Church by developing community action efforts in and through parishes and in collaboration with other Archdiocesan agencies.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the U.S. Bishops' domestic anti-poverty campaign which supports low-income communities as they address root causes of poverty and injustice. The Office of Justice and Peace manages the Archdiocesan aspects of the Campaign.

## **OUR DAILY BREAD – ANGELA JOSEPH**

This day center in Galveston provides human services to women and men who are experiencing homelessness. It is committed to upholding the dignity of each person by providing programs to help break the cycle of homelessness. The staff encourages and empowers those seeking help to make positive choices, to seek treatment for mental, emotional or addictive disorders, and to develop a plan of action and a network of community support. Toward this, the center provides counseling, nutritious meals, support groups, clothing, hygiene articles, referrals, and education.

## **SAN JOSÉ CLINIC – INTERIM, BERNARD LEGER, C.P.A.**

San José Clinic, the original safety-net clinic in Houston, provides quality healthcare services for individuals and families in the Greater Houston area who struggle the most with accessing care. For over a century, San José Clinic has served the Houston area by providing high-quality health care and health education to low income, uninsured and uninsurable individuals and families.

The Clinic was founded in 1922 by Monsignor George T. Walsh, pastor of Annunciation Catholic Church, with the Charity Guild of Catholic Women, and volunteers from the community. Today, San José Clinic is a comprehensive health home for more than 4,000 underserved Houstonians. To those that pass through the Clinic's doors, San José Clinic is an instrument of Christ's healing love, as all clinic services are delivered in an environment which is respectful of each person's dignity. San José Clinic is a ministry of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, a Texas Medical Center member institution, and a United Way agency.

The Clinic operates two locations, the primary location at 2615 Fannin in Midtown and a satellite location on the campus of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1615 Avenue E (Clinic Address), Rosenberg, Texas. Supported by more than 400 volunteer healthcare providers and community volunteers, as well as collaborative partners, academic affiliates, and a caring staff, San José Clinic offers patients:

- Primary Medical Care**

Adult Medicine; Pediatrics

- Women's Health Services**

Gynecology; Cervical Cancer Screening; Mammography

- Specialty Medical Care**

Cardiology; Dermatology; Endocrinology; Hematology; Internal Medicine; Neurology; Nutrition and Health Education; Orthopedics; Otolaryngology; Physical Therapy Diagnostic Evaluation; Podiatry; Rheumatology; Urology

- Mental Health/Behavioral Health**

Psychiatric and Licensed Professional Counselors

- Radiology Services**

Diagnostic Ultrasound; Digital X-Ray

- Laboratory Services**

- Physical Therapy**

- Vision Care**

Neuro-ophthalmology; Ophthalmology; Optometry

- Dental Care**

General Care/Exams; Hygiene; Fillings; Root Canals; Crowns; Extractions; Dentures/Partials

- Pharmacy**

Prescriptions; Immunizations; Patient Assistance Program; Disease State Management

## SPECIAL YOUTH SERVICES - RANDY ADAMS

Special Youth Services models the embrace of Christ through pastoral care, advocacy, and faith sharing in local juvenile justice centers, facilities, and programs including the promotion and coordination of restorative services to at-risk youth and their families.

## ST. DOMINIC CENTER FOR THE DEAF - DEACON BRUCE FLAGG

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has ministered to the Catholic Deaf Community for more than 50 years. The mission of this ministry is to provide all deaf and hard of hearing people complete accessibility to the Catholic Church: worship, ministering to others, to receive religious education and participate in all aspects of parish life. This office also acts as the "Catholic Voice" within the larger hard of hearing/deaf community of the Metro-Houston Area. To provide for the needs of the deaf community in accomplishing this ministry, we offer all the services of a regular parish:

- Mass in Sign Language every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in Warren Chapel
- A Voice Interpreter is provided for the hearing family members
- Deaf members serve as Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, etc.
- Classes are held for deaf couples for marriage and baptism preparation
- Hospital visitation and home visiting for the sick and shut-ins
- Interpreters provided for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and church events at other parishes

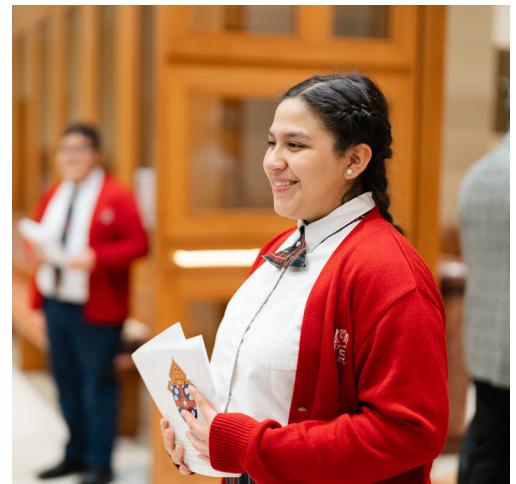
### • St. Dominic Deaf Club

In addition to religious services, there is also a social club for any member wishing to join. The Club sponsors a variety of activities throughout the year.

### • St. Dominic Deaf Religious Education for Our Children

This program provides deaf teachers for deaf children. The class is conducted in Sign Language with a heavy emphasis on visual presentations. Classes are small in size, so the teacher is able to be sure the child fully understands the lessons. After class, the children and their families attend Mass with the entire community. It is important for children to see successful, fully participating deaf adults, to give them role models. It is also beneficial for the parents.

- Classes are held for: First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation  
Classes: twice a month Sundays 9:30 a.m.





# PROMOTING, PREPARING AND SUPPORTING THE CLERGY

Vocational ministries address the full range of support for the clergy from the beginning stages of discernment to retirement. These ministries offer education and formation of men for the priesthood and permanent diaconate as well as provide direct sacramental and pastoral care, spiritual direction, and fraternal support as they carry out their ministries.

---

**Your donation to DSF will support these  
*Promoting, Preparing and Supporting the Clergy* ministries:**

- **Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza  
Priest Retirement Residence**
- **Clergy Formation and Chaplaincy  
Services**
- **Clergy Pastoral Outreach**
- **Department of Seminarians**
- **Ministry to Priests**
- **Office of Vocations for Priesthood  
and Religious Life**
- **Office of Permanent Diaconate Ministry**

---

## **ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH A. FIORENZA PRIEST RETIREMENT RESIDENCE – JOHN DESCANT**

This residence is for retired Archdiocesan priests as well as religious priests, on a space availability basis, in which they can live securely and independently in the company of their peers. The residence comfortably serves 24 priests, each with a suite. Full-time cooks provide three meals a day, seven days a week; and full-time housekeepers provide daily housekeeping and laundry services. The residence also includes a beautiful Chapel, outdoor spaces, a media room, a work-out room, a library, and a dining room.

## **CLERGY FORMATION AND CHAPLAINCY SERVICES – VERY REVEREND CLARK SAMPLE**

The Secretariat for Clergy Formation and Chaplaincy Services offers oversight, coordination and support to the departments engaged in the initial and ongoing formation of clergy: Office of Vocations for Priesthood and Religious Life and Department of Seminarians, St. Mary's Seminary, the Permanent Diaconate and Ministry to Priests. It offers similar assistance to chaplaincy ministry in hospitals through our Catholic Chaplain Corps, Correctional Ministries in our prisons, Seafarer and Seamen Ministries in the ports of Houston and Galveston and Airport Chaplaincy at the Intercontinental Houston Airport. It also extends its support to include our Mission Office, Ongoing Formation of Priests, the Office of Ecumenism and Ministry to the Deaf. Finally, the Clergy Secretariat operates as a resource and connecting point with all departments of the Archdiocese in matters pertaining to priesthood. The Vicar for Clergy assists the Archbishop in priests' personnel affairs.



## **CLERGY PASTORAL OUTREACH - JOHN B. DESCANT**

This ministry, located at St. Dominic Village, addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all retired clergy (retired bishops, priests, and deacons). It also maintains and provides communications with the retired clergy regarding special events, Archdiocesan news and community resources. Through visitations, phone calls, mailings, group events, personal assistance, and communication with Archdiocesan offices, the Clergy Pastoral Outreach Ministry cultivates relationships with retired clergy to ensure a quality of life that is healthy, secure, and dignified.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SEMINARIANS - REVEREND RICHARD MCNEILLIE**

This department journeys with men who desire to be priests for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The department is involved in the man's discernment, application, and admittance into seminary in addition to providing the seminarian administrative, financial, and personal support while on his journey to the priesthood.

## **MINISTRY TO PRIESTS - REVEREND THOMAS RAFFERTY**

The Ministry to Priests supports the priests of the Archdiocese, diocesan and religious, in their ongoing spiritual, fraternal and pastoral development. It serves as a "priest for priests," providing resources for spiritual direction, sacramental reconciliation, priests support groups, the mentoring of newly ordained priests, the visitation of elderly and infirm priests, and the acculturation process for international missionary priests. It also coordinates days of prayer, annual retreats; offers consultation to the Priests Personnel Board and the Ongoing Formation of Priests Committee. The Director invites fraternity and hospitality to all priests serving the local Church of Galveston-Houston.

## **OFFICE OF VOCATIONS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE - REVEREND RICHARD MCNEILLIE**

The Office of Vocations actively recruits for an increase in priests and brings awareness of choosing a vocation as a priest, sister, consecrated man or consecrated woman to those in our parishes and schools. The Office encourages and guides men and women who are discerning a call to the priesthood and religious life. This department provides resources, retreats, prayer experiences, and clarity to youth and young adults to help them see the beauty of serving God as a priest, brother, sister, or nun.

## **THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE MINISTRY - DEACONS PHILLIP JACKSON**

The Office of the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has a three-fold mission: (1) to foster vocations to the permanent diaconate as a life of committed and sacramental service to the Church, (2) to direct the formation of aspirants and candidates to the diaconate during the six years of study and service leading to ordination to the diaconate, and (3) to assist deacons, their wives and families and their colleagues in the Church in the living out of the ministry of the diaconate in service to the holy people of God.

# NURTURING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Family ministries nurture the most basic core unit of Christian life by caring for human and spiritual needs of family members. These range from the spiritual formation of young people at different ages of development to providing dignified care for the elderly. These ministries also address the needs of different ethnic constituencies and respect for the sanctity of life.

**Your donation to DSF will support these *Nurturing and Strengthening Families* ministries:**

- Aging Ministry
- Camp Kappe
- Ethnic Ministries
- Family Life Ministry
- Family Retreat Center at Circle Lake
- Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization
- Office of Hispanic Ministry
- Pro-Life Activities
- St. Dominic Village
- Vicar for Judicial Affairs (Metropolitan Tribunal)
- Young Adult and Campus Ministry

## **AGING MINISTRY - KRISTINE KERLIN**

The Office of Aging Ministry supports parish activities that enhance the spiritual, social and physical well-being of older adults by assisting in the development of senior groups and by providing opportunities for formation, training and education. The Office of Aging Ministry assists pastors, parish leaders, older adults and their caregivers in identifying and accessing community and Archdiocesan resources that enhance the individual's independence and their ability to plan for their future.

## **CAMP KAPPE - INTERIM, JIM BARRETTE**

Camp Kappe Youth Retreat Facility provides quality unique Catholic retreat, camp and school experiences for children, youth and young adults throughout the Archdiocese. Located on a 130 acres in Plantersville, Texas, Camp Kappe serves as a center for youth retreats, youth camping, spiritual growth programs and the School of Environmental Education (known as S.E.E.). The school fosters environmental studies for fifth grade Catholic School children in the Archdiocese. All of Camp Kappe programs and activities foster Catholic values and traditions rooted in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit through Sacred Scripture and Tradition while providing an enriching camp experience. These facilities are available to all parishes, schools and youth groups in the Archdiocese.

## **ETHNIC MINISTRIES**

### **• Ministry to Catholics of African Descent - Reverend Reginald Samuels**

The main objective of this ministry is evangelization. The ministry focuses on collaborative ministry with and for persons of African descent through advocacy, leadership development, evangelization, and collaboration with other Archdiocesan offices. It provides a voice and representation for the value and needs of the Catholic community of African descent. The ministry provides spiritual, cultural, educational and social development in the community; and seeks to bring all Catholics of African descent together with their various cultures to celebrate the universality of Catholicism in an effort to evangelize and develop leadership models that will encourage vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and to religious life.

#### • **Filipino Ministries – Reverend Edmund P. Eduarte**

This ministry focuses on providing opportunities for the Filipino Catholic community to gather for prayer and activities which promote and nurture the Filipino Catholic faith and culture. Annual Masses, liturgical celebrations and devotions are hosted as are many social, cultural, and educational activities. Among the religious celebrations are the Simbang Gabi, Salubong, Sto. Nino, Fiestas of San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod, May Sta. Cruzan and retreats. Programs for parish leadership are also promoted. The Filipino Ministry Council assists the Vicar for Filipinos in the ministry.

#### • **Vietnamese Ministries – Reverend Thu Ngoc Nguyen**

This ministry promotes weekly Vietnamese radio broadcasting and publishes bulletins for all Vietnamese in the Archdiocese. The ministry also arranges special events for the Vietnamese community including a Christmas Eve Mass, and facilitates meetings for clergy as well as lay leaders.

### **FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY – RICARDO MEDINA**

The Office of Family Life Ministry (FLM) focuses on increasing the awareness, understanding, and embracing of the family as the primary community of love in the Church and society. FLM functions as a resource for Archdiocesan leadership and parish ministers, both clerical and lay, so they can more effectively serve parents in their journeys to form, reveal, enjoy and protect their families.

Resources and services include Vocation to Marriage Discernment, Marriage Preparation; Natural Family Planning; Marriage and Family Enrichment; Parenting Education; Family Healing; Ministry for Families in Transition, including single-parent families who may be separated, divorced or widowed, and Consolation Ministry. Resources for leadership training and formation are available in English and Spanish.

### **FAMILY RETREAT CENTER AT CIRCLE LAKE – RICARDO MEDINA**

The Family Retreat Center at Circle Lake is an Archdiocesan-owned retreat center in Pinehurst, Texas, about one hour northwest of the downtown Houston area. This 43-acre facility in the woods is available for weekday or weekend retreats, a getaway for First Responders, meditative space for priest, religious and volunteer discernments, and family functions and celebrations. The center accommodates family programs, spiritual retreats, community programs, and events that focus on the support and development of all families.

### **OFFICE OF ADOLESCENT CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION – TIM COLBERT**

The Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization provides leadership, formation and resources for parishes to effectively form adolescents into lifelong disciples in the Catholic tradition. The Office accomplishes this through three initiatives: 1) Training and mentoring adult leadership in best practices for forming lifelong disciples, 2) Providing direct programming to adolescents as a means of evangelization, and 3) Creating a youth council consisting of over 100 youth whose primary duties are to be the voice of youth to Cardinal DiNardo and to assist in the design and implementation of programs for youth on an archdiocesan level.



## **OFFICE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY – LÁZARO CONTRERAS**

The Office of Hispanic Ministry has as its end the glory of God through the sanctification of all its collaborators and participants. It works in Communion in Mission (Mission Pastoral de Conjunto) as an interactive communications center for the Hispanic community.

Faithful to the principles of the Catholic Church, the office observes, listens, and discerns the needs of the Hispanic community, and responds in collaboration with the various Archdiocesan offices, parishes, as well as with other Catholic and secular organizations. It promotes inclusion among the different cultures, appealing to “the spiritual and moral capacities of the human person and to the permanent need for inner conversion” so as to achieve true reconciliation, solidarity and unity among all (CCC, 1888). It seeks to integrate and empower Hispanics into leadership positions, fostering in them the vocation to the priesthood and/or religious life, as well as the call to permanent diaconate, ecclesial lay ministry, and responsible participation in society at large. The Office of Hispanic Ministry has as its vision statement to be an agent of transformation for Hispanics promoting their fullest inclusion and participation in the Church and society.

## **PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES – JULIE FRITSCH DUMALET**

The Office of Pro-Life Activities strives to support the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. The office works to educate and to advocate for society's most vulnerable on issues of abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and Catholic bioethics. The Office strives to bring God's loving mercy to men and women in need of support and healing through the Gabriel Project (pregnancy assistance), Project Rachel (healing after abortion), and Jerome's Hope (miscarriage and infant loss) apostolates.

## **ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE – INTERIM, CHARLIE WILSON**

Founded in 1975, St. Dominic Village is Houston's only Catholic continuing-care senior living community. A member of the Texas Medical Center, St. Dominic Village is one of the largest non-profit senior living communities in Harris County. Dedicated to their mission of “Caring for Our Elders with the Compassion of Christ,” St. Dominic Village serves approximately 250 seniors each year through a continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, respite care, skilled and long-term-care. St. Dominic Village relies heavily upon the gifts and donations that we receive each year in order to care for so many seniors that have outlived their resources. St. Dominic Village also offers Angel House, an affordable, temporary home for individuals or family members of patients receiving treatment in the Texas Medical Center.

St. Dominic Village strives to provide a welcoming home with the highest standard of care to each of its residents according to his or her needs, while safeguarding and celebrating each one's inherent personal dignity and individuality. St. Dominic Village accepts residents from all faiths and walks of life. St. Dominic Village is blessed to have the beautiful Warren Chapel that offers spiritual enrichment through daily Mass and Sunday Mass as well as services in the centers for those unable to attend in the Chapel.

## **VICAR FOR JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL) – VERY REVEREND R. LUCIEN “LUKE” MILLETTE, J.C.L.**

The Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal Office, as defined in Canon Law, is an extension of the Archbishop's judicial ministry in the Archdiocese; and as such, is concerned in a special way with the quest for justice. Among the many matters handled in the Metropolitan Tribunal, the following are the most common services:

- Acts as a resource to the Archbishop for canonical matters
- Studies requests for Declaration of Nullity, Privilege of the Faith cases and Prior Bond cases
- Serves as First and Second Instance Court of petitions challenging the validity of marriage; in addition, judges the rights of physical and juridical persons
- Serves as a consultative agency for priests, religious, and laity in canonical policy or programs related to marriage
- Serves as a source of information with regard to canonical matters, especially regarding the Sacraments,
- Administrative Decrees, Penal Matters, and the rights and obligations of the clergy and the Christian faithful

## **YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRY - ANGELA POMETTO**

The Office of Young Adult & Campus Ministry seeks to invite and provide a welcoming space for young adults within the Catholic Church.. The office seeks to accompany young adults in their journey with Christ through their late teens, 20s, and 30s. Through ministry endeavors, we want all young adults to grow more connected to Christ, his Church, and to each other.

This mission is lived out through retreat ministry (Bayou Awakening, Charis Retreats in English/ Spanish), Catholic speaker ministry (Café Catholica, Café Catholica Lite, Café Connect, and Archdiocesan Young Adult Day in English/Spanish), and leadership formation (Apostles on Mission in English/Spanish). The office also accompanies Hispanic young adults involved with Pastoral Juvenil Hispana through worship events (Vigilia Pastoral) and through leadership formation (monthly asambleas and the Curso de Pastoral Juvenil). Currently, the archdiocese boasts more than 40 parishes that run young adult ministry in English and more than 30 in Spanish.

The office also seeks to bring a Catholic presence to the colleges and universities located within the archdiocese. Through Catholic Newman Centers, we seek to create environments where Catholic students can find community, encounter Christ in prayer, and be formed as disciples of Jesus. We also seek to evangelize the entire academic community and invite others into the joy, fulfillment, and truth of living the Gospel. The archdiocese currently supports Catholic Campus Ministry at University of Houston-Main Campus, Rice University, Texas Southern University, Sam Houston State University, and at the Galveston Newman Center, which serves 4 colleges on/near Galveston Island.



## SPECIAL GRANTS

In addition to the Archdiocesan ministries and agencies indicated above, Archbishop Vásquez awards grants to ministries and agencies operating within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to address specific or special needs.

## AID TO POOR PARISHES

In 1968 Bishop John L. Morkovsky wished to find a way to regularly help support the poor parishes in the Archdiocese. In response to Bishop Morkovsky's call, the committee created Aid to Poor Parishes.

Today, Aid to Poor Parishes derives significant funding from a portion of the amount by which parishes exceed their DSF goal. This fund benefits our parishes and schools in need through financial aid that allows them to continue valuable ministry programs for children and adults, as well as assist with property and building repairs.

*The Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Joe S. Vásquez, supports the inclusion of these 64 ministries in the DSF Appeal. Ministries reviewed and revised on October 2025.*