

*“Become his one family:
in the one Christ, we are one.”*
Pope Leo XIV



ONE *in Christ*

2026 Bishop's Appeal
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



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"The Bishop's Appeal allows us to live out "The One," our diocesan vision of spiritual and pastoral renewal. Your generosity supports ministries and services that no single parish can provide on its own, accompanying others in faith and reflecting truth, beauty, and goodness by serving those in need, forming disciples, and strengthening the Church in Fairfield County. I invite you to prayerfully consider giving generously to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. Your contribution is a tangible sign of our unity, **One in Christ**, and enlivens the mission of the Church in our Diocese of Bridgeport." + **Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport**

Accompanying Our Neighbor

The **Institute of Catholic Formation** coordinates services among the parishes, including the **Satellite Faith and Formation Center Program**, which accompanies more than 1,000 children in the Bridgeport and Danbury communities, providing faith and sacramental preparation directly within their community. Demand continues to grow each year.

"Last year was my daughter's first year in the First Communion program. The materials used were very helpful, and the wonderful part was that they were provided in both English and Spanish, which allowed me to be part of my daughter's learning process. The Diocesan Danbury Satellite is very organized and serves the Hispanic community in such a beautiful way."

- **Dilcia De La Cruz, St. Peter Danbury**

The new Pastoral Companions Program

will empower over 1,000 dedicated Eucharistic Ministers to accompany the isolated, grieving, and ill. Ministries such as the parish-based **Peace in the Storm** for those with physical and emotional suffering, **Diocesan Guilds, Walk with One**, and the **Ambassadors**, create opportunities for friendship, discipleship, healing, and outreach to those who feel especially distant from the Church.



Fostering Works of Goodness

Aaron lost his job, his home and was angry and hurt. He found assistance through **Catholic Charities** New Covenant Center in Stamford. Counselors mentored and accompanied him on his journey to find a place to live, refocus and begin his job search.

"God puts people in your way. Help was given to me, and I am thankful for the staff and volunteers. I obtained my new apartment through one of their programs that assists people who are unhoused, are seeking employment and are motivated to move forward with their lives."

- **Aaron May, Catholic Charities, Client**

Respect Life Ministry strives to build a culture of life, providing accompaniment, healing, education, and advocacy through initiatives like **Project Rachel** and **Walking with Moms in Need**.



\$8 MILLION Bishop's Appeal Goal

For more information about all the work that is made possible thanks to the collective generosity of the faithful, visit:



2026BishopsAppeal.org

Celebrating the Truth in Jesus Christ

A vocation to the priesthood is a profound call. 38 men are currently in formation for the priesthood, receiving guidance and support on their journey so they may one day accompany others in their ministry.



"I want to help people discover their true identity as sons and daughters of God. I desire to bring them closer to the graces offered through the sacraments, and to walk with them on their journey toward Christ—listening, offering spiritual direction, and ultimately celebrating with them the sacred mysteries."

- Herley Mendez, seminarian

Forming the People of Our Diocese:

The **Called By Name, St. Andrew Dinners** invite men to learn about the priesthood. In 2025, over 300 men were recommended by fellow parishioners.

The **St. Jerome Center** assists priests, deacons, and laity to preach, lead, and evangelize more effectively.

The **Apologetics ministry** is engaging believers and seekers, communicating the truth of Jesus Christ with clarity, reason, and compassion.

The **Institute of Catholic Formation** is exploring new initiatives to foster opportunities to encounter Christ, welcome new parishioners, and expand faith formation.



BECOME A LEADER: GIVE & JOIN THE COURT OF HONOR

The *Court of Honor* offers special recognition to those individuals or families who have demonstrated extraordinary generosity to the Bishop's Appeal by contributing gifts of \$2,500 or greater.

- + **Bishop's Leadership Circle** (\$25,000 & above)
- + **St. Teresa of Calcutta Society** (\$10,000 - \$24,999)
- + **St. Katharine Drexel Society** (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
- + **Court of Honor Partner** (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

For more information, please visit 2026BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470 or email 2026BishopsAppeal@diobpt.org.

BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR!

Sustaining gifts are secure and convenient, and they allow the Diocese of Bridgeport to better plan for current needs and future growth to make a lasting impact. They also allow your donations to be more timely and cost effective. Once you set up a sustained gift, it will repeat at that monthly amount and continue from year-to-year until you change or cancel it.

To become a sustaining donor, check the sustained monthly gift option box on your commitment card or the online giving form.

WAYS TO GIVE:



MAIL TO:

Diocese of Bridgeport
P.O. Box 589, Shelton, CT 06484
Make checks payable to *Bishop's Appeal*.
Please do not send cash.



MATCHING GIFTS:

Contact (203) 416-1312 for more information



GIFTS OF SECURITIES:

Contact (203) 416-1470 for more information



ONLINE:

Scan the QR code at left, or visit:
2026BishopsAppeal.org