



Good Shepherd Society

My sheep hear my voice; I know them,
and they follow me. -John 10:27



Diocese of Austin



Welcome!

Thank you for joining the Good Shepherd Society with your sacrificial gift to the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). Society members, like you, are a source of inspiration and encouragement to Bishop Joe Vásquez, as well as to those in need whose lives are impacted daily in our parishes, schools and communities through CSA-funded ministries.

Our History

Since his installation in March 2010 as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Austin, Bishop Vásquez has sought partners in the essential work of the Church — dedicated disciples who help to build vibrant and life-giving communities of faith.

In November 2016, Bishop Vásquez established the Good Shepherd Society to recognize those who generously contribute to the Catholic Services Appeal. Members donate a minimum of \$1,500 each year to support more than 100 diocesan ministries and programs that transform the lives of our brothers and sisters throughout Central Texas.

The Good Shepherd Society currently has 660 members who, like you, have embraced the call to greater discipleship. For the 2019-2020 CSA, members donated \$1.9 million in gifts, which accounted for 36% of the total raised.

Our Mission

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them,
and they follow me.”

-John 10:27

In his Gospel, the apostle John shares how Christ brings life and meaning to our discipleship in its truest sense. To be a disciple of Christ, one needs to follow Him with a spirit of selflessness and sacrifice.

By joining the Good Shepherd Society, you have taken this call to discipleship to heart. Members are leaders in advancing the mission of the Diocese of Austin, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and providing a pathway of hope to those in need.

When we combine our generosity with others in common purpose and vision, we share the love of Christ by extending His consoling presence in tangible and meaningful ways.

Through the call of the Gospel and the spirit of Jesus Christ, you are helping to establish a legacy in this diocese for future generations of disciples.



A Giving Tradition

Everything we are and everything we have comes from the generosity of our loving God. Each year, the Catholic Services Appeal gives us an opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout our diocese to do the Lord’s work — work no one parish or individual can do alone. Together, when we share that which has been given to us by God, we keep the ministries of the Church true, helpful and relevant.

Bishop Vincent M. Harris established the first annual appeal in 1978 – the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF). The purpose of the DDF was to provide “part or all the costs of supporting programs and services required by large numbers of people of the Austin Diocese but are uneconomical or beyond reach of individual parishes.” The DDF’s annual goal in 1978 was \$573,000 with the theme of “A Working Tradition.”

In 1986, Bishop John E. McCarthy transitioned the DDF into the CSA. In its first year, the CSA raised \$711,000 of its \$837,000 goal and had an average gift of \$66.17. In the years since, the goal of the annual appeal has grown along with the number of ministries it supports.

The goal for the 2020-2021 CSA is \$5.8 million. The average gift for recent appeals is \$309, with more than 22,000 faithful Catholics from throughout the diocese contributing each year.

YEAR	MEMBERS	TOTAL GIFTS	% OF TOTAL APPEAL
2016-17	314	\$1.4M	24%
2017-18	379	\$1.6M	27%
2018-19	321	\$1.4M	27%
2019-20	660	\$1.9M	36%





Good Shepherd Society Benefits

Although the greatest benefit of joining the Good Shepherd Society is having the opportunity to advance the mission of the Church as a disciple of Christ, Bishop Vásquez offers his gratitude for members' support in many ways.



Circle of Joy | \$20,000+

- Invitation to a private Mass and dinner with Bishop Vásquez
- Invitation to a reception with Bishop Vásquez
- Recognition in our annual publication
- Diocesan Christmas ornament

Circle of Faith | \$10,000-\$19,999

- Invitation to a private dinner with Bishop Vásquez
- Invitation to a reception with Bishop Vásquez
- Recognition in our annual publication
- Diocesan Christmas ornament

Circle of Hope | \$5,000-\$9,999

- Invitation to a reception with Bishop Vásquez
- Recognition in our annual publication
- Diocesan Christmas ornament

Circle of Charity | \$2,500-\$4,999

- Invitation to a reception with Bishop Vásquez
- Recognition in our annual publication

Circle of Friends | \$1,500-\$2,499

- Invitation to a reception with Bishop Vásquez

For more information, please visit austindiocese.org/good-shepherd-society.

Your Generosity Makes a Difference



Your CSA gifts support more than 100 ministries and programs that provide formation for future priests, care for active and retired priests, hope for the poor, comfort for the sick, education for children, defense of life and strength for families.



About the Catholic Foundation — Diocese of Austin

The Catholic Foundation – Diocese of Austin was established in 2007 to offer the Diocese, as well as its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations, the opportunity to establish individual endowments for long-term financial stability.

With an endowment, only the annual income is distributed for its stated purpose. Current distribution policy limits the annual distribution to 4% of the endowment's asset value. This allows for a portion of the endowment's income to be reinvested in principal to ensure the endowment continues to grow.

The parishes, schools, agencies and organizations that have established endowments with the Catholic Foundation use their distributions to support campus ministries, faith formation, retired priests, seminarians, and youth ministry, as well as many other ministries and programs.

To contribute to an existing endowment or create a legacy by establishing your own endowment with the Catholic Foundation, please go to catholicfdn.org.



Leaving a Legacy

The Diocese of Austin provides Catholics seeking to perpetuate the mission of the Church through their financial and estate plans with gift planning information and assistance.



How to make a lasting gift:

- Bequests
- Beneficiary gifts
- Charitable reminder trusts
- Charitable lead trusts
- Life estates

Common assets given:

- Cash
- Real estate
- Life insurance
- Securities
- Retirement assets

Make a Will

A will is your final act as a Christian steward. All people, regardless of age or financial resources, have a right and a serious obligation to have a will. A will ensures that your wishes will be respected and carried out so your assets will pass along quickly and smoothly to your named beneficiaries.

The Diocese of Austin has partnered with FreeWill to give you a free, easy way to write a legally valid last will and testament in only 20 minutes. For information, go to freewill.com/austindiocese.

For assistance with planned giving, please contact Scott Whitaker at (512) 949-2441 or scott-whitaker@austindiocese.org.

Ways to Give

You may make a secure gift online at austindiocese.org/csa.

With thousands of generous donors contributing to the CSA each year, giving electronically provides a considerable environmental savings — and it is good stewardship.

A monthly recurring gift is an excellent way to make your giving more convenient and to help maintain a consistent stream of support each month for diocesan programs and ministries.

Other ways to give:

- Electronic fund transfer from a bank account
- Cash, check or money order
- Text your gift amount to (512) 829-3826

For stock and IRA gifts, or contributions through a family foundation or charitable gift fund, please contact the Stewardship & Development Office at (512) 949-2450.





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