



Bringing Hope & Healing

*“We have been called to heal wounds,
to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring
home those who have lost their way.”*

- St. Francis of Assisi

2021

BISHOP'S

SERVICES  APPEAL

Supporting the Works of Christ

DIOCESE of LAFAYETTE

LOUISIANA



An Opening Message from Bishop Deshotel

This year, our theme for the Bishop's Services Appeal is perfectly illustrated by a familiar Gospel story, the healing of blind Bartimaeus. From it we find a message acknowledging both our own needs and the promise of restoration Jesus Christ offers in love. It is our privilege as His Church to share that love with others, Bringing Hope and Healing.

Amid the noise of the crowd, Jesus heard the lone cry of a blind beggar. On his way to Jerusalem, facing the burden of betrayal, He stopped to heal, His focus on the concerns of another. Many of us carry undue loads of our own this year, yet God calls us to journey together, extending His love. *"Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2).

When you contribute to ministry efforts like the BSA, you offer hope and healing, purpose and recovery to people throughout the Diocese of Lafayette. Together, we can move mountains,

and make a difference in the lives of our diocesan neighbors. It is our shared mission through the BSA to reach out beyond our church parishes, Bringing Hope and Healing far and wide.

Please give generously to support the work of the Bishop's Services Appeal. As a blind man sought Christ to grant him vision, my prayer is that you too will see yourself as part of this effort of renewal and can envision a brighter future for others. Your pledge means that we can make the bold investments needed to Bring Hope and Healing in 2021.

With every good wish, I am
Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Douglas Deshotel".

Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D.
Bishop of Lafayette

A Focus On Essential Ministries

From family life to Catholic formation to crisis response and support for vocations, the Bishop's Services Appeal offers spiritual hope, healing and practical assistance to those in our communities in need of God's divine mercy and care. Generous parishioners make it possible.

"Through faith, hope and charity, the Holy Spirit not only heals us but also makes us healers. These virtues open us to new horizons, even while we are navigating the difficult waters of our time."

– Pope Francis

Affirming the Culture of Life

The Office of the Pro Life Apostolate of the Diocese works to protect all human life, from conception to natural death. Gifts to the BSA facilitate pro-life advocacy, prayer services, pastoral care and information sharing to raise awareness about this important issue.

*"For in hope
we were saved."*

– Romans 8:24



A close-up photograph of a young man and woman smiling warmly at the camera. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right, leaning her head against his shoulder. They are both looking directly at the viewer with bright, happy expressions. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with greenery.

Forming Our Families in the Faith

The diverse cultures within the Diocese of Lafayette have created unique expressions of the Catholic faith in Acadiana. To lay a stronger foundation for our growing Hispanic community and the future of its families within the Church, the Office of Hispanic Ministry, in collaboration with the Office of Marriage and Family Life, now offers Marriage Preparation and Natural Family Planning programs in Spanish.

A photograph of five young men, seminarians, walking outdoors on a paved path. They are all dressed in formal black suits with white clerical collars. They appear to be in conversation, looking towards each other. The background shows large, leafy trees and a building in the distance, suggesting a campus or park setting.

S.O.S: Supporting our Seminarians

Your gift to the BSA provides for the education of 30 seminarians from our diocese whose vocations bring hope for the future of our Church in Acadiana. They have answered God's call and rely on help now from those of us they will one day serve as priests.

Amplifying the Gospel Message Every Day



Keeping the Mass front and center along with important liturgical events, the broadcast team in the Office of Communications is connecting our 100,000+ faith family to the Gospel message in a big way, despite the impacts of Covid-19.

*“Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
and persevere in prayer.”*

– Romans 12:12



Healing the Spirit and Mending the Soul

Grieving is the hardest work an individual will ever do. The Bereavement Ministries of the Office of Marriage and Family Life offer emotional support and pastoral care to help those who have experienced loss and sorrow to find a path to healing.

A photograph showing three people in a library or bookstore. On the left, a Black man in a dark suit and tie is looking towards the center. In the middle, a young woman with long dark hair is looking at a prayer card. On the right, a white man with a beard in a black clerical suit is holding and reading a prayer card. The prayer cards are yellow and feature a drawing of St. Joseph and the text 'RE: YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH'.

Uniting with St. Joseph

Bringing the entire diocese together, the Office of Worship & Liturgy provided the on-the-ground support to Bishop Deshotels' call for a Year of St. Joseph. How providential that the diocese chose to commemorate this saint at a time in which we truly need his intercession for protection, comfort and healing.

“May your mercy, Lord, be upon us; as we put our hope in you.”

– Psalm 33:22

A photograph of an older man with a long, full white beard and hair. He is wearing a blue and red Hawaiian-style shirt with a white star pattern, reminiscent of the American flag. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a blue sky.

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes.... Behold I make all things new.”

– Revelation 21: 4-5a

Turning Destruction into Strength and Hope

Recovery from natural disasters like Hurricanes Laura and Delta can't be mass produced. It's family by family, home by home. Catholic Charities of Acadiana and their Rebuilding Together program have the proven staying power and experience to make every action count as they heal the brokenness.



The 1918 Giving Society

A Celebrated Way to Honor a Lasting Legacy

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8),
and so are the needs of God’s people and those we serve.

The 1918 Giving Society celebrates more than a century of Catholic faithfulness in Acadiana. Our tie to our Catholic ancestors is certain, and—in many ways—we face similar concerns: the needs of our young children and young families and of those called to serve them and the rest of us, a new generation of devoted and well-trained priests, as well as providing backbone assistance and guidance to 122 church parishes.

Needs may be timeless, but the generosity of God’s people is sure.

In our centennial year, we honored the service of our ancestors and acknowledged the significant needs of a mature Catholic Diocese, establishing the 1918 Giving Society, a commitment to strengthen our ministries and mission for years to come.

In this new season of giving, we invite you to join with other 1918 members who are **Bringing Hope and Healing** throughout the Diocese of Lafayette.

Centennial Circle:

\$1,918 - \$2,499

St. Joseph Circle:

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Marian Circle:

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mitre Circle:

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Crosier Circle:

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Bishop’s Circle:

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Immaculata Circle:

\$100,000+

You Are Invited to Become a Member

Like all who seek the blessings of God and find Him extravagant in mercy and love, a blind man named Bartimaeus received the longing of his heart, his sight, and a future filled with hope.

You can be that hope to many more as part of the 1918 Giving Society.

Established as a celebrated part of our centennial anniversary as a Diocese, the 1918 Giving Society honors the charity of those who prayerfully contribute significant support, extending the reach of essential Catholic ministry programs throughout Acadiana.

With your noteworthy gift of \$1,918 or more, you join caring contributors whose extravagant generosity blesses many by **Bringing Hope and Healing**.



Our world is in need of hope and healing that only Christ offers. Will you step forward this year to preserve our Catholic traditions, share the Gospel, and transform lives within your diocesan family? We can only do this together. Not just some of us. All of us. Together.

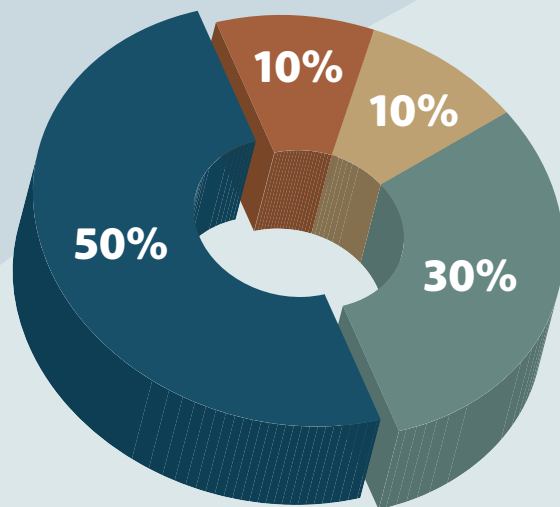
Bringing Hope and Healing in Direct Service Ministries

A journey of renewal begins with you. Give to the 2021 Bishop's Services Appeal to share in Jesus' mission to bring hope and healing to a troubled world.

“O my God, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve to be served, to give without counting the cost....”

– St. Ignatius of Loyola

Make this the year you join the Bishop's Services Appeal.



- Seminarians and Vocations
- Catholic Charities Rebuilding Together
- Communications Outreach
- Ministries & Direct Services*

***Includes:**

- Black Catholic Ministry
- Hispanic Catholic Ministry
- Marriage and Family Life
- Needy Parishes
- Pro Life Apostolate

Please invest your treasure in support of the 2021 Bishop's Services Appeal.

Pledge by mail, by phone (337-261-5641), online at diolaf.org/BSA, or text **DIOCESE** to 41444

Convenient Ways to Give

Mail



Complete the reply card included with your BSA mailing and return in the pre-paid envelope provided for your convenience.

Online Giving



Visit diolaf.org/BSA to learn more about the BSA and to make a gift online by selecting **DONATE NOW**. Giving online is safe and secure.

Text



Text **DIOCESE** to **41444** and make a secure gift via credit card on your mobile phone.



Join the St. Francis League as a Sustaining Giver

Maximize the impact of your gift when you sign up to make a continuous monthly gift through a credit or debit card as part of the St. Francis League. Your gift repeats for 12 months and continues from year-to-year. Less money for paper, mailing and processing means more money for ministry to serve the poor, families, clergy and children throughout the diocese.

Visit diolaf.org/FrancisLeague to set up your gift today.



Contact Us

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Proud Member of the International Catholic Stewardship
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