



Rev. Msgr. Joe Scantlin

### Retired Priests: Living by Faith

Following a back surgery at age 83, Rev. Msgr. Joe Scantlin retired in 2016. Monsignor Joe is a beloved priest in residence at Most Blessed Sacrament in Arlington and continues to pray and serve the parish as his body allows.

Through the course of a lifetime Catholic priests lay down their lives in service for the Church. Living by their faith, priests simply trust that God will provide for them in their later years. The Diocese of Fort Worth has 14 priests who continue to bless us in their retirement through prayer and five of them assist with sacramental ministry.

When a priest retires, they may continue living at a parish rectory but some need to live in nursing care or assisted living. Out-of-pocket medication copays have skyrocketed over the years, and the clergy, who live on a fixed income, are grateful when medication and other out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed thanks to your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

Your generosity also supports long-term care for ailing priests who deserve peaceful end-of-life care. As more of our priests reach retirement age, our support will need to increase. They are there for us when we need them. May God give us the generous spirit to be there for them with our gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

As faithful Catholics, we have an opportunity to return to our priests a sense of security in their retirement years by making a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your gift provides medical and long-term care over and above what is covered by our priests' insurance and other resources.



Volunteers from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Decatur and St. Joseph, Bridgeport.

### Rural Parish Grant: Prison Ministry

To visit the imprisoned is one of seven Corporal Works of Mercy. Prison Ministry answers that call in seven state prison units throughout the 23 counties of the Diocese of Fort Worth. The communities of Blessed Virgin Mary in Decatur and St. Joseph in Bridgeport have been called to minister to Bridgeport Correctional Center. Raul Soto (pictured above, far right) and volunteers from the two parishes visit the unit weekly and provide Catholic books, bibles and catechisms. Providing for both the prisoners needs and meeting the parishes' operating budgets would not be possible without outside assistance. A grant from the Annual Diocesan Appeal allows the parishes to purchase books and retreat materials for their prison ministry.

As a medium security prison, many prisoners will end their sentences and re-enter our communities. With the support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, these volunteers provide a solid Catholic foundation for these men and women that allows them to rejoin society as thriving and contributing citizens. While imprisoned they receive sacraments like baptism, reconciliation, Holy Communion and confirmation from Father Richard Collins, Prison Ministry Chaplain.

Through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, rural parish communities receive assistance in carrying out the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Watch how two parish communities are extending Christ's mercy to prisoners in Bridgeport with funding from the Annual Diocesan Appeal: <https://bit.ly/ParishGrant2023> (case sensitive)



*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

-1 Peter 4:10





Lopez Family

## Catholic Education

After 15 years of homeschooling their seven children, Silvio and Yamile Lopez discovered one of their children needed specialized learning support. Thankfully when researching schools in their area, they found Catholic schools provided the necessary learning support. The Annual Diocesan Appeal has provided a grant for learning support at 17 Catholic schools in the diocese. This extra support is included in tuition, eliminating the extra expense of a tutor. The Lopez's child is now thriving at school along with her brothers and sisters.

The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the primary educator of their children. Parents, religious education teachers and Catholic school teachers work together in preparing children for a lifelong practice of their faith as future leaders of our Church and society. The Annual Diocesan Appeal supports thousands of families who accept the responsibility to educate their children according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports Catholic school students in need of learning support and tuition assistance. This year the Annual Diocesan Appeal will include additional support for security measures at every school to ensure a safe and protected campus for our children.

Hear directly from Silvio and Yamile Lopez, how your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports Catholic school families like them at <http://bit.ly/CatholicEducation2023> (case sensitive)



Kexsy Villeda Guerra and her children

## Gabriel Project: Serving Mothers Who Choose Life

The *Gabriel Project* is a parish-based ministry that has been supporting women experiencing a crisis pregnancies for almost 20 years in the Diocese of Fort Worth. In recent months there has been an increased need for services like the *Gabriel Project*. Last year with the support from the Annual Diocesan Appeal, the ministry joyfully welcomed 48 babies and served 175 moms through pregnancy and during the first year of their babies' lives. An outreach program of Catholic Charities Fort Worth, the Gabriel Project does not receive government grants. Volunteers, called Angels, and donations from individuals are the only resources available for this much needed ministry.

Kexsy Villeda Guerra, a dedicated and loving mother to two children, received assistance with her bills after delivery and was referred to Catholic Charities Career Development Services for employment counseling. Her Angel, Amy Beerwinkle, has been her biggest supporter and advocate; providing spiritual and emotional support. Kexsy currently works full time as an administrative assistant at a landscape company and also has a part time job during the weekends. To meet the increased demand for *Gabriel Project* services, the Annual Diocesan Appeal has pledged a substantial increase in grant funding this year.

Your commitment to the Annual Diocesan Appeal allows Respect Life ministries such as the Gabriel Project to assist mothers and families. Watch this video to learn how your generosity helps expectant mothers and families <https://bit.ly/RespectLife2023> (case sensitive)



Rev. Brett Metzler

## Seminarians: Hope for the future

Father Brett Metzler attended Immaculate Conception Catholic school in Denton. When his faith was challenged in high school he grew in his intellectual knowledge of the faith with the support of his family and parish. A weekend retreat planted the seed of priesthood on his heart and he was ordained in 2021. The Annual Diocese Appeal helped provide his tuition, room and board and other expenses during his eight years of seminary.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal removes the financial concerns from the discernment decision so that each man can focus on his spiritual and educational journey. As the Vocation Director for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Fr. Metzler can walk alongside and support each man discerning the priesthood. He believes seminarians are very encouraged by those who support their discernment and that the priesthood is a beautiful vocation, worth the sacrifice.

In a world often at odds with Church teaching, seminarians are concrete examples of real hope for the future. Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal funds seminarian tuition, room and board allowing them to focus on their spiritual and intellectual growth.