

BRINGING HOPE AND HEALING

The 2021 Bishop's Services Appeal

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope." (1 Thes 1:2-3)

Helen Bossier was peacefully sleeping in her bed when her family called out to her to get up and get out of her room. Hurricane Laura was raging that night and had just knocked a hole in the roof of her bedroom. In the morning, she saw extensive damage that needed immediate attention. With limited resources, Helen called out for help. Catholic Charities of Acadiana answered her call.

"They provided a team of amazing volunteers," Helen recalls. "They tarped my roof, giving us time to figure out next steps. I don't know what I would have done without them."

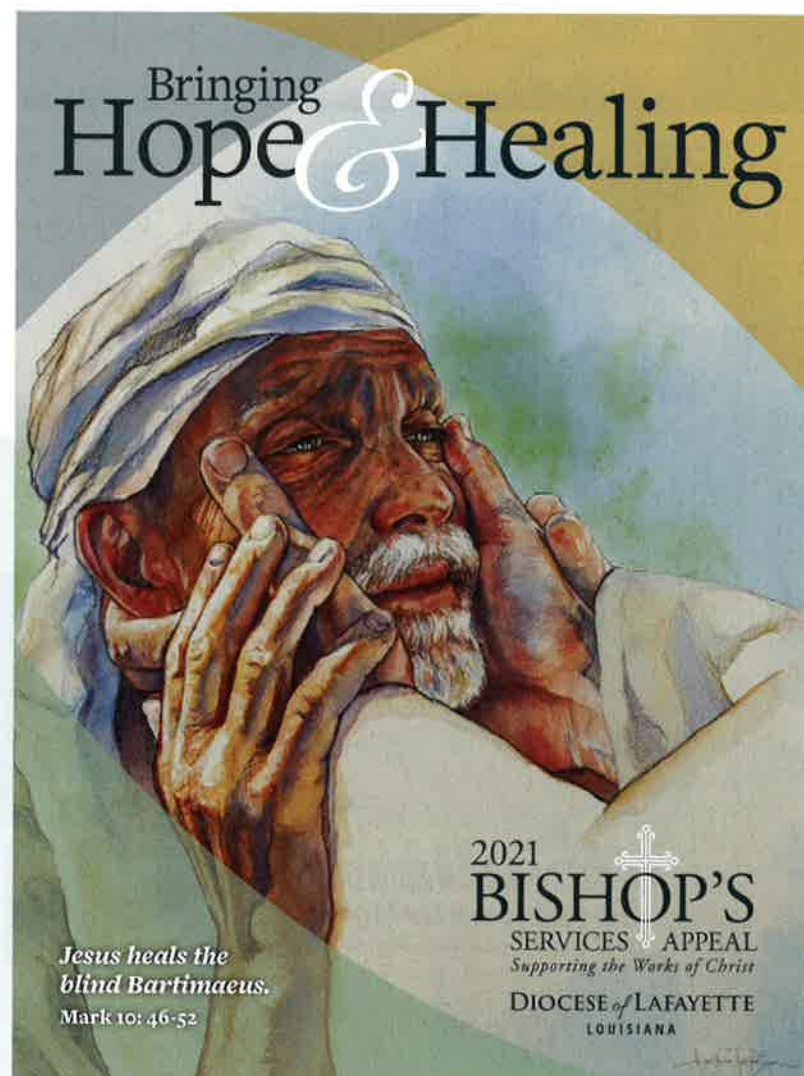
Catholic Charities of Acadiana (CCA) is one of the essential direct service ministries of the Diocese of Lafayette that is Bringing Hope and Healing, the theme of the 2021 Bishop's Services Appeal. Through their Rebuilding Together Acadiana program, they are committed to long-term recovery efforts. With more than 1,000 families now on a waiting list for repairs, CCA is counting on donations to the Bishop's Services Appeal this year to help them turn destruction into strength and hope.

The theme of the 2021 BSA reminds us of the familiar story of the blind Bartimaeus, who calls out to Jesus, asking for healing.

"As Bartimaeus looked to Jesus as His provider and the One who offered him lasting hope, those around us look to the Catholic Church, knowing we respond to their needs in Christ's love, Bringing Hope and Healing to them," reflects Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel.

In its 48th year, the Bishop's Services Appeal strengthens the works of Christ throughout the Diocese of Lafayette, with 100 percent of all donations funding direct service ministries. Pledging is under way now, and payments can be made through year end. No gift is too small. The goal is to increase participation throughout the diocese. Currently, less than 10 percent of Catholic households donate to the BSA.

"When you contribute to ministry efforts like the BSA, you offer hope and healing, purpose and recovery to people throughout the Diocese of Lafayette," emphasizes Bishop Deshotel. "Together we can move mountains, and make a difference in the lives of our diocesan neighbors after a very challenging 2020."

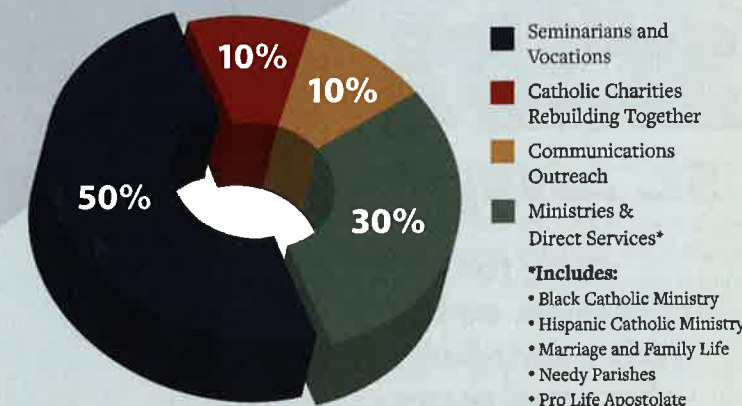


A significant portion of the BSA supports the eight years of education for 30 seminarians at an annual cost of \$36,000 each. These seminarians are bringing hope for the future of the Church in the Diocese of Lafayette.

"The seminarians are very aware that they have been afforded an amazing priestly formation because of the generosity of the faithful and their support of the BSA," says Father Blake Dubroc, director of the Office of Vocations. "It is talked about often and becomes a motivator for formational excellence. Knowing that the faithful have offered their gifts for seminary formation inspires a young man to study diligently so that he may one day return to the faithful in spiritual nourishment, what he received in generosity from those who support seminary formation by support of the BSA."

Please make this the year that you participate in the Bishop's Services Appeal. To learn more about the BSA and to view video stories of the BSA in action, visit diolaf/BSA to hear firsthand about vital programs supported by donations to the annual Appeal. †

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



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.

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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.