



LIVING A
Legacy
OF
FAITHFULNESS
AND PURPOSE

*"...For I have called you by
name: you are mine."*

~ Isaiah 43: 1

2023
BISHOP'S
SERVICES  APPEAL
Supporting the Works of Christ

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS:
Living a Legacy of Faithfulness and Purpose

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CALLED? To me, our Lord is saying: I see you. I hear you. I am with you always. And He is asking us an important question that needs an answer: How will you deliberately live out His legacy with faithfulness and purpose?

In this fiftieth anniversary year of the Bishop's Services Appeal, there is no better time to answer our Lord's calling. We do so by extending the faith passed down to us. We do so by committing to being more than just good people. We commit to actually *Living a Legacy of Faithfulness and Purpose* in our homes, in our parishes and in our diocese.

Why give to the BSA? Together we are truly answering the challenge of the Second Vatican Council to "all the faithful, called by the Lord," a challenge embraced by the Diocese of Lafayette in 1973. In the intervening fifty years, clergy and laity have established vital ministries with funding from the BSA.

Through the BSA, we have made a commitment to Catholic churches, schools, seminarian formation, pro-life work, bereavement programs and so much more. Those who serve in these efforts or who have donated to make them possible are

following in the footsteps of Charlene Richard, Fr. Verbis Lafleur, and Auguste 'Nonco' Pelafigue.

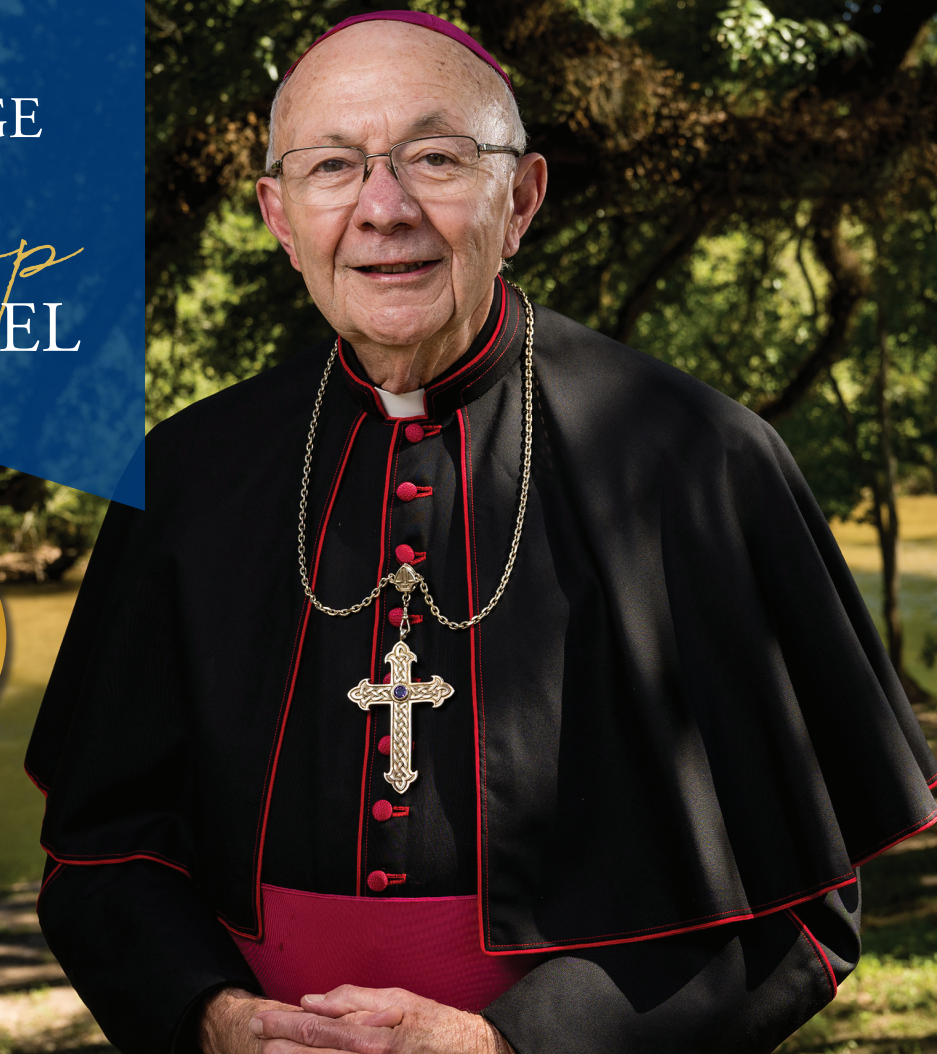
Quietly humble, those twentieth century candidates for sainthood serve as additional examples for us. Like each of them, "we are called to be holy, living our lives with love and bearing witness in everything we do" (Pope Francis). This fiftieth year Bishop's Services Appeal presents us with a wonderful opportunity to extend Christ's love to others. Please join me in deliberately *Living our Legacy of Faithfulness and Purpose* by making your gift today.

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



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

A MESSAGE
FROM
Bishop
DESHOTEL





ANSWERING THE CALL TO *Sainthood*

Through acts both large and small, we bring positive change in the lives of others. We have only to look to the examples of 12-year old Charlene Richard, Fr. Verbis Lafleur and Nonco Pelafigue. Holiness is not a lofty ideal. It is love lived to the full in service to others.

That is how we build and *Live a Legacy of Faithfulness and Purpose.*

“Holiness consists in simply doing God’s will, and being just what God wants us to be.”

- St. Therese of Lisieux



THE *Legacy* OF CHARITY: LIVES ROOTED IN COMPASSION

With the guiding star of Matthew 25, the St. Joseph Diner has been feeding the hungry since the inception of the BSA some 50 years ago. Individuals and families who volunteer their time are a vital part of this compassionate outreach.

“Anytime is the right time to do with zeal whatever pleases God.”

- St. Basil the Great



THE
Legacy
OF APOSTOLIC
SERVICE:
LIVES ROOTED
IN MERCY

Homeless veterans find help and hope at the St. Michael Shelter where dedicated staff provide care and intense case management services to offer dignified alternatives to life on the streets.

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.”

- Jeremiah 29:11



“Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure if He wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you strength.”

- St. Philip Neri

THE
Legacy
OF VOCATIONS:
LIVES ROOTED
IN FAITHFULNESS

Twenty-four young men from our diocese have answered the call to a priestly vocation. They rely on the prayers and financial support of those of us they will one day serve. These seminarians are a source of hope for the future of the Catholic faith in Acadiana and can help us answer our own call to everyday holiness.

THE LEGACY OF THE BISHOP'S SERVICES APPEAL: *50 Years of Apostolic Stewardship*

It was 1973 and the second Vatican Council had opened the windows of the Church to the modern world. It offered a new vision of living the Gospel through the liturgy and through works of charity. And so the Bishop's Services Appeal was born to support vocations and to help organize and fund vital services to those in need within the Diocese of Lafayette.

Fifty years later, we celebrate the legacy of faithfulness to the founding of the BSA by Bishop Gerard Frey and the bishops who succeeded him: 86 distinct programs that have reached into every corner of the diocese with compassion and care. These programs have adapted to changing times and needs, but always in fulfillment of their true purpose in supporting the works of Christ.

BSA BY THE DECADES: LIVING A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS AND PURPOSE



SUMMARY:

200	284,409	90,257	137,182	109,025	86
ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD	BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES	FIRST COMMUNIONS <i>(since reported in 1990)</i>	CONFIRMATIONS <i>(since reported in 1990)</i>	PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED

THE LEGACY OF LOYALTY:

The Steward's Fellowship of Givers

When you give to the BSA, you unite your gift with your Catholic brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Lafayette. Together we lift up those on the margins and bring them to the center of our lives. Together we answer God's call with greater faithfulness and purpose. Please join and strengthen the charitable works of the diocese.

"Every saint is a message which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Jesus Christ and gives to His people."

- Pope Francis

St. Clare's
Givers of Charity



\$50 to \$99

St. Luke's
Givers of Faithfulness



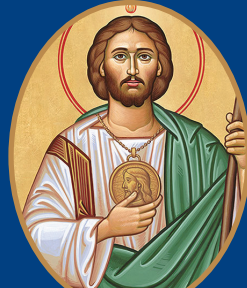
\$100 to \$249

St. Joan d'Arc's
Givers of Justice



\$250 to \$499

St. Jude's
Givers of Hope



\$500 to \$999

St. Faustina's
Givers of Mercy



\$1,000 to \$1,917

St. Francis
League



For sustaining givers of any amount for an ongoing monthly repeating gift

THE LEGACY OF OUR BEGINNINGS

The 1918 Giving Society



God's call is personal and unique. Rather than staying close to the shore, He challenges us to put out into the deep. To do more. To be more. To give more of ourselves.

In our centennial year of 2018, we honored the service of our ancestors who founded our diocese and we acknowledged the ever-present needs of our people by establishing the 1918 Giving Society.

Please join almost 300 families who have ventured far from the comfortable shore and honored the legacy of 1918 by making a gift of \$1,918 or more.

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+





THE
Legacy
OF HOLINESS
LIVES ROOTED
IN REVERENCE

Thousands of Catholics of all ages experienced the graces of a Lourdes pilgrimage when the relics of St. Bernadette were hosted by the Diocese of Lafayette. The Orders of Malta and the Holy Sepulchre, the Knights of Columbus, our clergy and seminarians worked together to ensure that this profound event reflected the holy life of Bernadette and her devotion to the Blessed Mother.

“Follow the saints because those who follow them will become saints themselves.”

- St. Pope Clement I

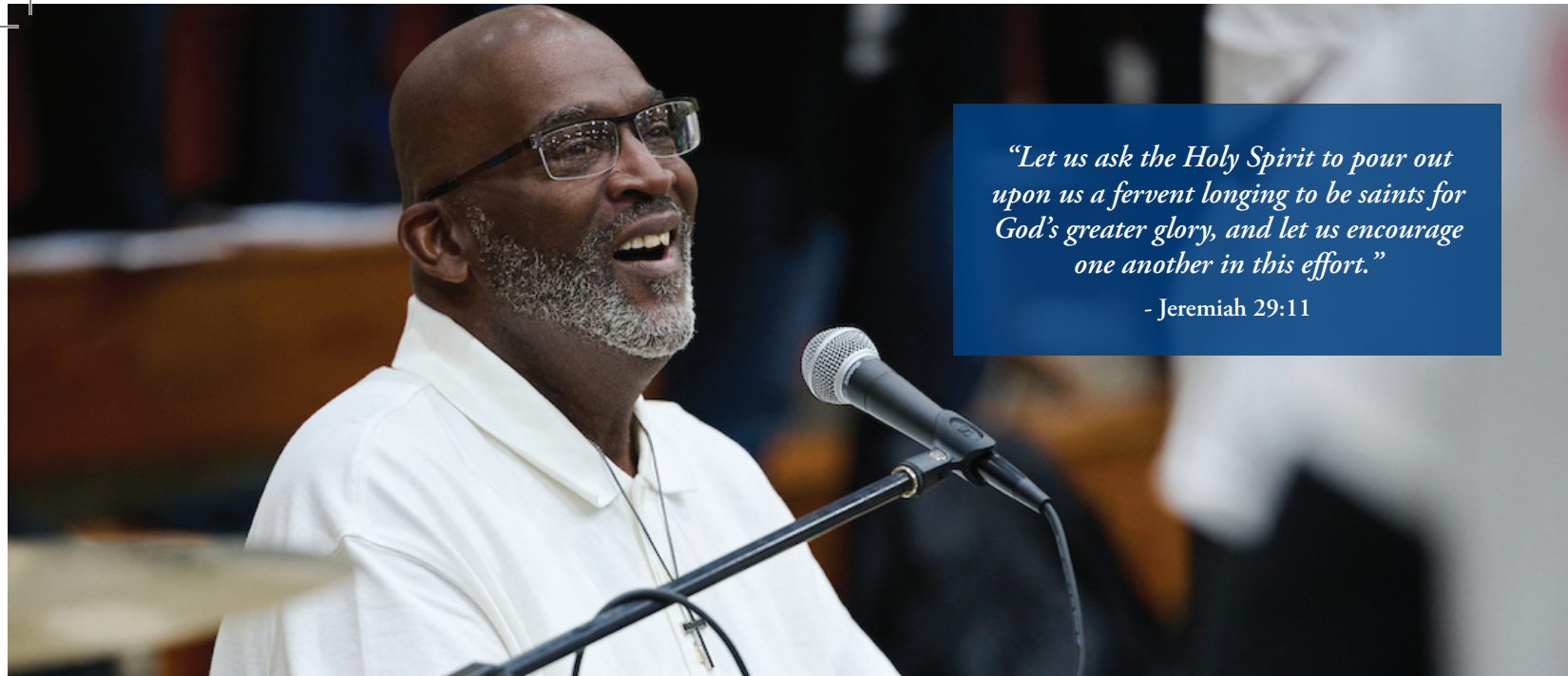


“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may announce praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

- 1 Peter 2:9

THE
Legacy
OF ANCESTRY:
LIVES ROOTED
IN DETERMINATION

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions Parish was recently established in honor of the Vietnamese priest and his 117 followers who were martyred for Christ. The parishioners of this historic new parish purposefully follow this powerful example as they plan for a new church building with guidance from the Diocese to house their faith community.



“Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God’s greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort.”

- Jeremiah 29:11

THE
Legacy
OF ABUNDANCE:
LIVES ROOTED
IN LEADERSHIP

The 41 year history of the African American Youth Congress has been built by dedicated volunteers, young and old, who give generously of their time to lead one another to Christ through music, shared testimony and inspirational speakers. Living as deliberate leaders has left an abundant legacy of positive influence in the lives of others under the guidance of the Office of Black Catholics.

THE
Legacy
OF BLESSINGS:
LIVES ROOTED
IN RESPECT

Life itself is God’s greatest gift to the world. Education and advocacy for the sanctity of life in all its stages has been the 50-year legacy of the Pro-Life Apostolate. The overturning of Roe v. Wade is an historic marker legislatively, but the work to change hearts and minds continues.

“Each of us has a unique and particular call—something only we can do for God. All it requires is for us to say ‘yes’—to give our fiat like Mary did so many centuries ago.”

- Carrie Gress





Contact Us

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Diocese of Lafayette

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To donate, visit diolaf.org/BSA or text **DIOCESE** to 50155 or scan the QR code.



Proud Member of the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) promoting stewardship as a way of life throughout the Catholic Church.

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