

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How good it is to be part of the Body of Christ! This is what we are as members of the Church, together we are the living presence of Christ in the world, nurtured by the real presence of his Eucharistic Body and Blood. The Risen Jesus, having accomplished his mission here in this world, commissioned his disciples to continue the work of proclaiming the nearness of God, sharing the story of Jesus' victory over sin and death, and consoling the suffering and sorrowful with the healing love of God. Some 2000 years later, the Church is still engaged in this mission and will be until Christ returns in glory.

In the 50 counties that constitute the Diocese of Lexington, the members of our Church are committed to this mission. We are eager to help bring about God's kingdom by our good works here- especially those that are directed towards the marginalized and disadvantaged.

Each year at this time, every member of our Church is invited to support the work being done by the Church throughout the diocese. Our support is given with our time, our talent and our treasure. Each of our parish and mission communities participates in the larger work of the diocese. The diocese is able to coordinate the work of the parishes and missions and strives to make this work ever more fruitful. Your participation is vital!

I want to see every member of our Church eagerly engaged in putting the Gospel into practice and motivated to share their faith with someone. I also hope that every member of the Church will give themselves to promoting all that the Church does and supporting this work by participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Look around and see what Catholic Charities, what your parish ministries, what the Father Beiting Center in Louisa, what youth and young adult ministries and campus ministries are doing. Better yet, see where you can best place your gifts at the service of Christ and His Church. And of course, prayerfully consider how you can financially support the building of God's kingdom here by your annual gift.

We are hoping to expand the number of people actively participating in the appeal again this year. The success of this campaign, and even the goals for each parish and mission, are about more than the dollars raised, we want to increase the number of people involved- that includes you!

Peace and all good,

*+ John Stowe, OFM Conv.*

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.  
Catholic Diocese of Lexington



## ABOUT THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

The Catholic Diocese of Lexington serves Central Kentucky and the mountainous/rural areas of Eastern Kentucky. The two areas exist in stark contrast but serve as places of opportunity for faith and evangelization. Poverty and unemployment rates in Appalachia are 75% higher than the national average. While Catholics are low in number, the church is known as a source of comfort for all.

The diocese encompasses an area the size of Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island combined, half of which is in the heart of Appalachia. Roman Catholics comprise 3% of the total population. Of the 59 parishes and missions in our diocese, roughly 40 rely on external funding to meet daily expenses. The diocese supplements parishes, schools, and outreach ministries in the mountains with over \$1.4 Million each year, contributed by faithful stewards like you. Our need is much greater than this. Will you help us?

## MINISTRIES SUPPORTED BY THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



Catholic Charities



Catholic Schools



Clergy Support



College Ministries



Hispanic Ministry



Permanent Diaconate



Seminarians & Vocations



Stewardship



Technology

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE!

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IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS/ STOCK:



Call (859) 253-1993 for more information

ONLINE



Give online at [cdlex.org](http://cdlex.org)

MAIL



1310 West Main St.  
Lexington, KY 40508

For additional questions about the appeal, please call (859) 253-1993



Catholic Diocese of Lexington

# ONE IN CHRIST

2023 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



"...to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." – Ephesians 4:12



Praying, Serving and Sharing  
In Central & Eastern Kentucky

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# ONE IN CHRIST

2023 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

USE YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN AND DONATE!



## VOCATIONS

The Catholic Diocese of Lexington relies on our priests and deacons for the sacraments, but there are not enough priests to serve each church in our diocese. We depend upon lay leaders who serve in many of our mountain churches as pastoral life directors and coordinators as well as religious men and women who are serving as part of their missions.

- 39 active diocesan priests
- 12 active religious order priests
- 15 diocesan retired priests that still assist sacramentally
- 79 active deacons
- 39 women religious
- 5 seminarians



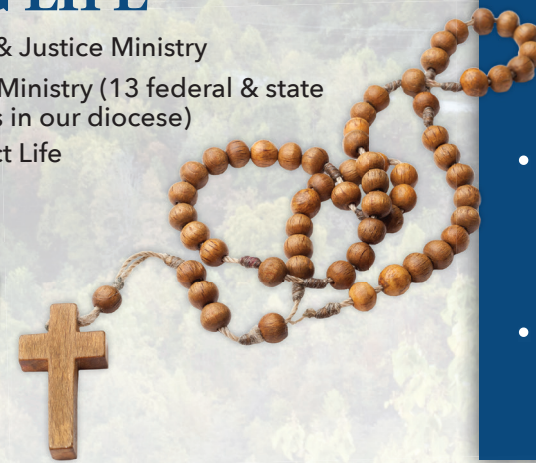
## FLOOD RECOVERY

- We provide emergency assistance to all who call upon us, a critical element to our Catholic presence in Eastern Kentucky. (Flooding from July 2022)
- 1700+ flood-affected families received Diocesan sponsored direct assistance in the past 11 months.
- The house pictured below (under construction outside Jackson) is one of five whose construction is being cosponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Lexington to continue flood recovery efforts.



## DONATIONS TO THE ANNUAL APPEAL SUPPORT:

- College campus ministries at Berea College, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University and the University of Kentucky
- Home repair and assistance.
- Salaries and benefits of priests, parish life directors and parish life coordinators who minister in Appalachia
- Significant support for Catholic Charities to operate and provide emergency assistance for natural disasters like the flooding in Eastern Kentucky
- Catholic Schools tuition assistance
- Priest Retirement
- Seminarian Education
- Elevated support for food pantries in many of our Eastern Kentucky parishes
- Hispanic Ministry through the Centro de San Juan Diego



## CHERISHING LIFE

- Catholic Charities Support
- Congolese Refugee Ministry
- Hispanic Ministry
- Immigration Assistance
- Peace & Justice Ministry
- Prison Ministry (13 federal & state prisons in our diocese)
- Respect Life



## PAVING THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

DONATE TO THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL TODAY!



Parish Operational Support



Catholic Charities & Community Outreach



Retired Priests Support & Seminarian Education



Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry



Catholic Schools

*Your Donations Make Our Church Stronger!*