

Ministry Descriptions

Descriptions of the ministries supported by the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal: To view the video showing these various services, click the following link <https://youtu.be/AeB97lp7LNk>

Catholic Education

Our Catholic Schools serve nearly 10,000 students each day. Our schools are characterized by five words: *Believe; Learn; Serve; Lead; Succeed* - describing the mission and ministry of almost 900 educators each day in 36 Catholic elementary, and high schools. Our students pray, learn and celebrate the faith daily enhanced by regular opportunities for worship and service and receive an outstanding education with 99% continuing their studies in colleges, universities, or other post-secondary programs.

The Office of Religious Education

Functions as a resource to parishes to promote the catechetical ministry as articulated by our Bishop. The Office supports on going spiritual and professional development for parish DRE's, catechists, and parents serving more than 10,000 students per year in 52 Religious Education programs throughout the diocese.

Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Is committed to developing Christian values in young people through programs that catechize, evangelize, and promote social justice through service in addition to the practice of good sportsmanship through CYM sports. Programs like March for Life Youth Leadership Team and the annual Youth Pilgrimage help to empower young people for leadership with their peers, in their schools, in the Church and their community at large.

The Office for Marriage and Family Life

Provides Catholic formational and informational programs for parishes, couples, and families. Pre-Cana classes prepare engaged couples for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Other programs address topics such as remarriage, blended families, natural family planning, miscarriage and loss of a child through our Foot Prints Ministry - Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and Retrouvaille. The Office also facilitates various events supporting marriage and family goals such as World Marriage Day and the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass.

Special Needs Ministry

Offers religious formation programs for children, youth and adults and helps individuals prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Through Special Needs Ministry, the diocese provides assistance and consultation to parishes to help them offer an inclusive environment to support special needs programs on their local level.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Provides a faith community which serves as the students' parish family while they study at a college or university within the diocese. Prayer services, retreats, faith formation, leadership and ministry training, service opportunities, ecumenical fellowship, social events, and spiritual direction are offered depending upon interest and resources. Mass is celebrated weekly either on campus or in the parish of the College or university

Deaf Ministry

Offers sacramental and spiritual support and nourishment to those in the hearing impaired community. A signed Mass is now offered bi-monthly and interpreted (ASL) masses are held each Sunday in at least one diocesan location. Particularly, there are interpreters at each Sunday 9:15 a.m. Mass held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Bear, Delaware

Pastoral Services

The Office of Hispanic Ministry assists parishes and diocesan offices in realizing their mission to Hispanic communities fostering the development of spirituality, community building, social action, and leadership and theological formation. Twenty parishes serve as regional Hispanic Ministry Centers and weekly masses are regularly celebrated in Spanish seasonably at two migrant laborer camps.

The Office of Pro-Life Activities

Provides programs and information to strengthen our witness on issues related to the dignity and value of all human life. The Respect Life Committee works to maintain a united front in the pro-life community by cooperating with pro-life groups like 40 Days for Life, Delaware Right to Life, and advocates for abolishing the death penalty and preventing Physician Assisted Suicide.

Ministry for Black Catholics

Explores and implements evangelization efforts needed to lift the spirits of Catholics of African Descent and to bring others, both church and unchurched, into the family of the Body of Christ.

Institutional Chaplains

Put into action the corporal works of mercy by visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes and bringing comfort and reconciliation to the imprisoned and provide spiritual support and guidance to civil service and law-enforcement personnel.

Ordained Deacons

Serve the diocese through their threefold ministry of liturgy, word and charity. Eighty-eight deacons presently serve in all but six parishes in the diocese. Eight new deacons were ordained in 2017 and nineteen men are presently in their second year of Deacon Formation leading up to ordination in 2021.

The Office of Vocations

Supporting those called to religious life and caring for our Seminarians. Nurturing vocations carries the light of Christ and our Church into the future. To date, our diocese includes 98 diocesan priests, 138 women religious, 121 permanent deacons and 67 men religious.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities addresses human suffering and promotes restoration and well-being by providing caring services to families and individuals in need, particularly those most vulnerable, marginalized, and underserved. Catholic Charities heeds its call to care for the least among us by supporting those who face complex social problems such as teen pregnancy, homelessness, substance abuse, HIV AIDS chronic poverty, and mental illness.

Casa San Francisco in Milton

Provides shelter for up to 12 adults for approximately 30 days, as well as a wide range of services aimed at helping those who need it most in Sussex County. Shelter residents work with case managers to obtain income and find affordable housing opportunities. In 2021, Casa provided 2,195 days of care (64 residents total) to homeless individuals in Sussex County. Casa San Francisco also operates the most extensive Food Assistance program in Sussex County, distributing over 99,585 lbs. of food.

Catholic Charities' Food Assistance

Food cooperatives and emergency pantries provide a sustainable source of nutritious food to individuals at risk of hunger. Cooperatives are located at the Wilmington Thrift Center, the Kent County Office, Casa San Francisco, the Sussex County Office, and Seton Center. Emergency pantries are located at Casa and Seton Center. Casa also operates a Senior Food Distribution program. In 2022, over 5,000 individuals received food from at least one of the Catholic Charities Food Assistance programs.

The Immigration Program

Assists individuals and families with issues related to their legal status in the United States. Catholic Charities provides services to single adults, families, women with children, and unaccompanied minors who arrive in Delaware.

Basic Needs Program

Assists low-income individuals and families through financial coaching and case management services and provides financial grants for basic living expenses. Households in crisis can work with case managers to achieve economic goals such as creating and maintaining a household budget, securing employment or a higher-paying job, securing child-care, and accessing health benefits.

Behavioral Health Services Program

Offers routine and community-based outpatient therapy services to individuals throughout the State of Delaware. The program functions as a community mental health provider targeting all populations, including adults, adolescents, children, families, and couples with mental health relational, behavioral, or substance abuse issues. We provide services to all individuals regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or age.

