

# Sowing THE Seeds



## 2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The Annual Catholic Appeal funds 43 ministries and agencies within the Diocese of Springfield. In some cases, it is the sole source of funds for these ministries.

These vital missions touch thousands of people in the four counties of western Massachusetts. They serve the young and old; feed the hungry; spread the faith; communicate the word of God; support the family – those in need and in crisis- and respect for life.



*With your support, you help us  
to sow the seeds of faith.*

[WWW.DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG/ACA](http://WWW.DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG/ACA)





### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic education is the largest recipient of ACA dollars funding educational support to elementary and high school students. Enrollment is growing as in-person learning is possible even with COVID-19 restrictions. Planting the seeds of faith, nourishing students in a faith-based education, the entire family benefits when a child is educated in a Catholic school.



### VOCATIONS/SEMINARIAN SUPPORT

We pray for an increase in vocations in the Diocese of Springfield and your donation to the ACA supports those efforts. While the family is the birth place of vocations, guidance in the discernment process is vital. The Vocations Office is funded by your contributions.

### THE GRAY HOUSE

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph 35 years ago, The Gray House in Springfield's north end continues to be a neighbor, helping neighbors. Moving to contactless curbside food distribution, the staff and volunteers responded to the COVID-19 related 132% increase in demand for help. Remote and onsite tutoring and adult education and educational support for children continue with safety measures in place. Most recently providing winter coats, turkey dinners, and Christmas gifts for families with children the goal is to adapt to the ever changing needs of the low income neighbors in the North End.



### RICK'S PLACE

Providing emotional care to grieving children and their families, Rick's Place continues its mission of free support programs even as COVID-19 prevents in person meetings. Dealing with the death of a parent, grandparent, a sibling, or a friend is difficult and made even more challenging when opportunities to mourn are stymied. Now using virtual groups to work with schools to help students on their grief journey, Rick's Place continues its ten year mission in memory of Rick Thorpe of Wilbraham who died on 9/11.



### JERICO - THE BUREAU FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN & ADULTS

Here families with special needs are embraced and supported. People with additional needs are integrated into the life of the Church and faith community as the barriers for full inclusion are removed.

### LATINO MINISTRIES

Latino Ministries supports the fastest growing Catholic population in Western Mass, providing pastoral, evangelization, and social support to parishes with Spanish speaking communities, and Latino Programs for Catholic Youth and Families in the Diocese of Springfield. "Encuentro" (Encounter), is an effective and dynamic Youth Ministry Program for Latino Youth, providing on-going support and yearly retreats and events.



Learn More or Donate Today at [WWW.DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG/ACA](http://WWW.DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG/ACA)



## Your Gifts Support

Alternatives Pregnancy Center  
Amherst Community Connections  
Angels Take Flight  
Bethlehem House  
Camp Holy Cross  
Campus Ministry  
Catholic Charities  
Catholic Communications  
Catholic Schools & the  
Catholic Schools Office  
Catholic Scouting  
Clearway Clinic  
Clergy and Seminarian Educational  
Support  
Faith Formation  
Genesis Spiritual Life and  
Conference Center  
The Gray House  
Harmony House  
Holy Cross Sandwich Ministry  
Homework House  
Jericho Bureau for Exceptional  
Children and Adults  
Latino Ministries  
Lee Food Pantry  
Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry  
Ministry for the Deaf  
Montague Catholic Social Ministries  
New Direction Women's Center  
New Spirit  
UMass Newman Center  
Office of the Bishop  
Office of Worship  
Permanent Diaconate  
Pregnancy Support Berkshire,  
Pittsfield  
Providence Behavioral Health Hospital  
Providence Ministries  
Rachel's Vineyard  
Residents Encounter Christ,  
Berkshire County  
Residents Encounter Christ,  
Hampden County  
Retired Priests & Sisters Funds  
Rick's Place  
St. Vincent DePaul Society  
Take and Eat  
Youth Center  
Womanshelter/Compañeras

*For the 2020 ACA Accountability report:*  
**DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG/ACA**

*"The gospel speaks of a seed which once sown,  
grows by itself, even as the farmer sleeps."*

**- Pope Francis**

Our prayers, kind words, and even the smallest of gestures sow the seeds of God's love and hope. Today more than ever, we must be the sowers of the seeds to make the world a better place. We are in the midst of a perilous time. As Catholics, even as we are distanced, we are still called on to unite: to serve the poor, feed the hungry, protect human life from birth to death, and communicate God's message of love, hope, and mercy.

I invite you to prayerfully consider joining me in support of the Annual Catholic Appeal this Lenten season.

Let's not just get back to normal,  
let's get back to better!



Most Reverend William Byrne  
Bishop of Springfield



## How You Can Help!

### DONATE ONLINE



**DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG/ACA**

### DONATE BY PHONE



**413.452.0630**

### MAKE A PLEDGE



**COMPLETE AND RETURN  
THE PLEDGE CARD YOU  
RECEIVED IN THE MAIL**

Make the most of your ACA contribution! Talk to your company about its matching gift program. Many programs match your gift dollar for dollar and some may even double a donor's gift. If your gift is eligible, simply complete your employer's matching gift form and submit it.

Contact our office for information on the transfer of stocks and bonds. For traditional IRA gift transfers, please consult your IRA administrator.

## More Questions?

**CALL OUR OFFICE AT 413.452.0630 OR  
CONTACT US BY EMAIL AT ACA@DIOSPRINGFIELD.ORG**

*Annual Catholic Appeal funds are never used  
in defense or settlement of clergy abuse cases.*