



*“As each one has received a gift,
use it to serve one another as good
stewards of God’s varied grace.”*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Church’s Liturgy offers us Luke’s account of Jesus’ familiar parable of the Prodigal Son. Like each of the sons in this parable, too many of us consider our highest good to be material wealth: some by squandering, others by hoarding. We know that such an approach to life results only in spiritual emptiness and alienation from God and our neighbor.

To save us from this miserable approach to our lives, the Church offers us this opportunity to respond to Christ’s **Call to Gratitude**. We have this moment to consider the gift of our lives and the many blessings already placed in our lives by God. Appreciating this goodness, draws us closer to God and impels us towards acts of selfless love in imitation of His ultimate gift of His Son who came to save us from sin. A grateful heart never sins.

In the Diocese of Fort Worth, much of our charitable outreach and acts of solidarity are carried out through the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

Last year, more than 3.4 million dollars were donated to the Annual Diocesan Appeal to support vital ministries throughout the ninety-one parishes of the Diocese of Fort Worth. We were able to continue our Mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our Diocese. Thousands of children in our Catholic schools prepared for lifelong practice of their faith as the future leaders of our Church and society. Struggling parishes were able to pay their priests, directors of religious education, youth ministers or even to pay their utility bills.

We are a diverse Diocese of more than one million Catholics spread over almost 24-thousand square miles, but the Eucharist unites us more integrally than simply our gathering as a congregation of disparate individuals. The Sacrifice of the Eucharist brings us to Communion with Christ and with each other in a loving bond that is even stronger than our common humanity. It is in this spirit that we set the theme for this year’s Annual Diocesan Appeal, **A Call to Gratitude**. This theme reminds us to contribute to charitable works as an expression of gratitude for the sacrificial gift of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we engage in this campaign, I invite you to prayerful consideration of these words of Sacred Scripture taken from the First Letter of Saint Peter: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” As we celebrate and receive the immeasurable gift of the Eucharist, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will sacrificially support the Annual Diocesan Appeal this year.

May the compassion offered us by Christ in the Sacrifice of the Mass soften our hearts to assist our brothers and sisters most in need of mercy. If could not give last year, please consider making some gift in gratitude this year. If you have given before, thank you for your generosity again this year. I invite each of you to prayerfully make a commitment to the Annual Diocesan Appeal during Mass next weekend. As I renew my prayers and affection for you as God’s flock entrusted to my care and pastoral oversight, I thank you for your prayers for me as your bishop and ask that you renew them in the coming year. I remain,

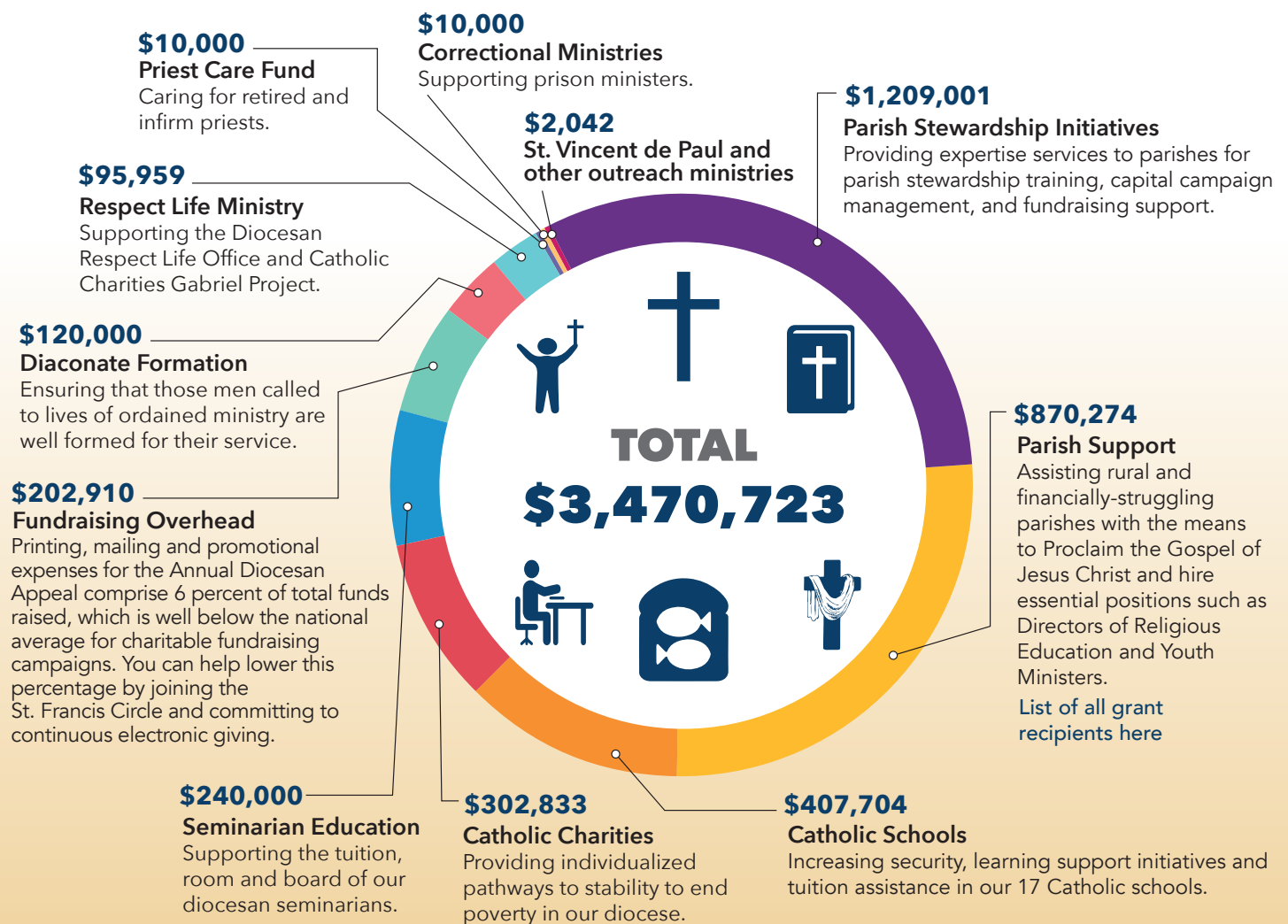
Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

A Report on the Gifts to the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal

The Annual Diocesan Appeal for the Diocese of Fort Worth distributed **\$3,470,723** to the following ministries, organizations, services and purposes in the year ending June 30, 2022.



Please visit <https://bit.ly/ADAAccountability> (case sensitive) to learn more about the impact of the 2021-2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal.

