



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

June 2016

Dear Friends:

This year our Diocese celebrates the 75th Year of our annual Catholic Charities Appeal. I hope you enjoy reading a copy of our newsletter, **SHARING**, which traces the timeline of our efforts to serve our community back to 1942. Then Bishop James Cassidy called upon the Diocese to respond with charity as our community faced the prospect of World War II. Today our Diocese is focused on helping those in need of both Christ's Mercy and the loving attention provided by the variety of ministries that are funded by this annual Appeal.

I am proud that throughout the Diocese our women and men, sons and daughters, clergy and laity, respond to this call by their actions on behalf of their neighbor. We serve tens of thousands of needy individuals and families throughout southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the Islands.

We firmly believe that we can continue to improve the quality of life for our community by providing for those who look to us for assistance during their time of need. This assistance is given without regard to race, creed, nationality, gender, or economic status. Examples include:

- The 25,000 people, including 7,400 children and more than 2,500 elderly who were assisted by the Catholic Social Services through their distribution of more than 300,000 pounds of emergency food, free meals, and food vouchers.
- The Office of Catholic Social Services housing at least 600 men, women, and children each night in emergency, short-term, or transitional housing in 2015.
- St. Clare Residence in Hyannis, a transitional residence for women recently released from the Barnstable House of Correction.
- The nearly 150,000 patient visits that were made to the sick and dying in all the hospitals in the Diocese by the twenty-two full and part-time chaplains.

Please join with the thousands of parishioners over the years that have left an indelible message of generosity and service throughout our Diocese. I invite you to use the envelopes in your pew or, if you prefer to make your donation online, to visit the Catholic Charities website at: www.frdioc-catholiccharities.org. All contributions to the Appeal are directed to the services and ministries provided by the Diocese to those who need them the most.

I ask you to join us, in this Holy Year of Mercy, and support our Appeal. Please prayerfully consider how you can help your neighbors who need you. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in need, I thank you for your thoughtful consideration and generous response. God Bless each of you.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River