

One Household of Faith

2010 Archbishop's Appeal

Support Materials

Distribution of Funds

Every year, we receive more requests for funding than we are able to support. The Appeal provides funds for long-standing commitments to support the work of Catholic agencies, Pastoral Center ministries, Catholic social services, and other non-profit agencies within the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Any organization or ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio meeting the eligibility criteria may apply to the Archbishop's Appeal for a grant, especially those moving forward the goals set forth by Archbishop José H. Gomez, S.T.D. of spreading the gospel message and serving the needs of the poor and destitute.

What difference do contributions to the Archbishop's Appeal make?

Following are only a few of the services made possible with assistance from the Archbishop's Appeal:

- 31 Seminarians received financial assistance to continue their studies
- 2,000 catechists received formation and leadership training
- 366 students received tuition assistance at 44 Catholic schools
- At least 83 babies were saved from abortion
- More than 200 people received mental health counseling
- 1,561 bags of food and 683 pieces of clothing were distributed
- 17 mothers and their babies slept safely at night at Guadalupe Home
- Another 82 teen mothers and 68 babies found refuge at Seton Home
- 135 couples attended retreats to solidify and strengthen their marriage
- More than 2,000 married couples received faith formation
- 267,000 meals were served to those who were homeless and unemployed
- Over 325 young adults experienced spiritual growth at the YA Conference
- 172 teens from 14 parishes learned about Social Justice
- 500 men and 800 women attended the Pilgrim Center of Hope conference
- 70 elderly priests were given retirement benefits
- 800 souls heard the pro-life message through Project Rachel
- More than 2,000 individuals and families were provided with shelter
- 320 children received care and nurturing through St. PJs Children's Home
- 14 new bible study groups were formed
- 800 people heard the truth of the Catholic Church from apologists

Allocation of Funds

Social Ministries	20%
Evangelization/ Outreach	19%
Education	11%
Seminarian Support	10%
Pastoral Formation	10%
Priest Pension	9%
Long Range Planning	9%
Appeal Operation	9%
Missions Restoration	3%

Ministries Funded

The following ministries will receive funding from the Archbishop's Appeal in 2010:

SOCIAL MINISTRIES (\$744,040)

ALLIED WOMEN'S CENTER

This Catholic Crisis Pregnancy Center focuses on saving babies from abortion. The Allied Women's Center is often a woman's first contact when she believes she may be pregnant. Compassionate assistance, counseling regarding the development of the baby, assistance with physical needs such as housing and pre-natal care, and emphasizing chastity inside and outside of marriage are just a few programs women are assisted with. Last year, the Center provided 518 free pregnancy tests and gave special assistance to 1,200 clients which included: diapers, food, clothing, car seats, baby care items, housing and adoption services.

THE BORDER ORGANIZATION

The Border Organization addresses education, health care, infrastructure, living wage, youth programs, immigration, and other issues of community concern in 15 churches and missions in four counties along the border with Mexico. Already, it has achieved significant improvements in the infrastructure of many "colonias" by organizing residents to urge county officials to apply for grants which have funded water, sewer, paving, and lighting projects. The Border Organization has also worked with city, county, and state officials to bring a new health clinic to the area.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUILDING FUND

Funding from the Appeal is assisting Catholic Charities in purchasing and operating a new headquarters building from which it conducts 23 charitable programs dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor throughout the archdiocese. Over the past seven years, Catholic Charities has nearly tripled its programs. By acquiring a building, money saved from rent expense will be invested in programs.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BRAZOS EXTENDIDOS

The Brazos Extendidos (Open Arms) program provides psychological counseling services to individuals and families living in the rural areas of the Archdiocese, where these services are otherwise unavailable. Services are provided to those in need without regard for a person's ability to pay.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES UVALDE RURAL DEANERY MINISTRY

Catholic Charities will provide a new service to the Uvalde Rural Deanery with the assistance of the Appeal. Catholic Charities will provide counseling, immigration services, guardianship services, emergency food and clothing assistance.

Ministries Funded

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Food is the most basic need for human beings. For Catholic Charities' Crisis Intervention Program, it is the most basic service we provide. Last year 14,243 individuals were served with emergency assistance (food, clothing, rent assistance, utility assistance, funeral expenses and prescription assistance).

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Catholic Charities Immigration Services works toward the just and humane treatment of all immigrants by helping them achieve the full benefits available to them under the immigration laws through advocacy, education and direct service. Services include training/outreach, naturalization workshops, family-based petitions, limited court representation and the Ask-A-Lawyer Program. A monthly clinic in Laredo is held with plans to expand to Del Rio this fall.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Catholic Charities Money Management provides daily money management services to low-income seniors, age 55 and older that have difficulty budgeting, paying routine bills and keeping track of financial matters. The program's goal is to promote independent living and prevent financial exploitation.

CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

This special fund provides resources for immediate response to victims of unforeseen disasters. In past years, the Archdiocese of San Antonio has assisted victims of floods, tornadoes, and other disasters in areas such as Hondo, Del Rio, New York City, Washington, D.C. and in our sister diocese in Honduras. Help has been made available to disaster victims in Seguin, La Coste, New Braunfels, Lytle, Kerrville, San Antonio and many other communities in our archdiocese.

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

The Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio provides high quality, affordable health care, child care and human services to medically and socially underserved children, without regard for ability to pay. It addresses the basic needs of children while also educating the children's parents. Appeal funding will assist in paying for child care costs, medical and dental treatment, and needed social services.

GUADALUPE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Guadalupe Community Center provides social services that enhance the culture, health, quality of life and progress of individuals and families in the community. A wide array of services for the youth and seniors are provided, including the use of computer lab, leadership development, reading programs, dance classes, nutritional classes, arts and crafts classes, health fairs and counseling sessions.

GUADALUPE HOME

Guadalupe Home responds to the great need to house homeless, expectant mothers and homeless women with infants who have nowhere else to turn. Since 1997, Guadalupe Home has served hundreds of mothers. Its mission is to provide a safe, nurturing environment designed to maximize a woman's ability to become self-sufficient.

Ministries Funded

HISTORICAL CENTRE FOUNDATION

The Historical Centre Foundation oversees the operation of the San Fernando Health Centre (SFHC) which provides health care services for the uninsured and underinsured at no cost. In addition, other social service agencies have partnered with SFHC to provide counseling, legal assistance, wellness programs, case management services and food and housing assistance. The San Fernando Health Centre serves about 3,500 people annually.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

Funding will provide support for catholic chaplains who bring the Word of God, offer Reconciliation, the Eucharist, guidance, counseling and emotional support to thousands of hospitalized patients and their loved ones. They help patients at a time when they feel anxious, afraid, and uncertain.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Ministries for Persons with Disabilities serves as an educational resource and referral office to identify, advocate and promote awareness of the needs of the disabled within the deaneries of the Archdiocese.

PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachael serves men and women suffering spiritual and emotional wounds in the aftermath of abortion. Abortion, one of the most traumatic experiences a person can have, can be intensified by a sense of alienation from God and church. Its aftermath frequently intensifies other medical and social problems such as depression, work conflicts, marital strife, alcoholism, and drug addiction. Project Rachel helps people move toward reconciliation with themselves, their children, their families, their church, and their God. Through this ministry, women are enabled to speak the truth about abortion in their lives, so that others do not fall victim to the lie that abortion is a quick and easy solution to a problem pregnancy.

ST. PETER-ST. JOSEPH'S CHILDRENS HOME

St. PJ's provides neglected and abused children a safe haven in which they may begin to heal from the trauma of the abuse and/or neglect that has plagued their young lives. St. PJ's offers the children counseling, medical attention, spiritual development and a home away from home. St. PJ's goal is to help these children heal from their wounds and grow to be successful, productive adults. This year approximately 425 children will call St. PJ's home.

SAMMINISTRIES

For over twenty-five years, the San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMMinistries) has offered emergency shelter and social services to help people through immediate crisis and, ultimately, toward long-term stabilization. Last year, SAMMinistries Emergency Shelter provided 109,507 bed nights of shelter and services to 3,683 men, women and children.

Ministries Funded

SETON HOME

Seton Home provides a nurturing home environment for pregnant or parenting teens who are homeless and have chosen to keep their children. Funding will support Seton Home's Spirituality Program that provides a broad range of religious, educational and mentoring services to meet the spiritual needs of young mothers. It will also help to fund the basic care program which provides food, shelter, clothing, life skills education, transportation, and house parent supervision. Seton Home can currently serve 40 teen mothers and their babies daily. Residents stay an average of 10 months.

SISTERS CARE

Sisters Care assists the elderly who need help to remain independent in their homes. The lives of hundreds of clients have been enriched by receiving outreach in the areas of personal care, homemaking, respite and spiritual care. This ministry, conducted by professed religious and lay volunteers, enables senior citizens to maintain their independence, respect and dignity, while providing them with much needed companionship and personal attention.

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

For over 138 years, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has served every community within the Archdiocese operating an emergency distribution system that provides food to those in need. Currently 72 parishes are members of a "Conference". Each conference provides services to the poor living within their parish boundary. This program is called Operation Food Pantry. 54,912 people were provided food for over 650,000 meals.

EVANGELIZATION/OUTREACH (\$655,210)

ACTS MISSIONS

ACTS Missions is a dynamic ministry that has blessed the lives of hundreds of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Its purpose is to evangelize by spreading the Gospel among Catholic communities through ACTS Retreats. Three-day and three-night Catholic lay retreats are presented by fellow parishioners.

CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

Catholic Archives serves the entire Archdiocese of San Antonio. Archives such as baptismal records are collected, stored, repaired, appraised, arranged, described and made available. Preserved records of administrative, fiscal, legal and or historical value to the Archdiocese of San Antonio are also archived.

CATHOLIC TELEVISION OF SAN ANTONIO

Catholic Television of San Antonio (CTSA), which broadcasts 24 hours a day, is available to more than 330,000 households on Channel 15 of the Time-Warner Cable system. In recent years, the CTSA viewing area has expanded and now includes many new towns and cities, thirty-one communities in all. CTSA airs news and information, issues-oriented talk shows, religious education and the daily Mass. Appeal funding ensures the continuation of programming reflecting catholic and family values.

Ministries Funded

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

Catholic Campus Ministry provides services to local non-Catholic college campuses. Services to students include but are not limited to: retreats, student leadership development, scripture studies, liturgical celebrations and service opportunities.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Every diocese and archdiocese in the United States contributes to a program for Catholic communications throughout this country. Your support of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops helps provide national Catholic radio, television and print communications.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Archdiocesan Office of Communications brings the message of Jesus in an understandable way to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It distributes information on archdiocesan events and developments in the church to the media and provides messages from the Archbishop to members of our church and the public. Its director acts as spokesperson for the Archbishop and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The office also produces the Today's Catholic newspaper, available for distribution every two weeks.

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION

The Office of Evangelization assists the Archdiocese in becoming an increasingly evangelized and evangelizing community of faith by overseeing the development and implementation of evangelization goals that fulfill the Lord's command to "*go and make disciples of all nations*" (Mt 28:19), making the parishes places where people gather as joyful and actively involved everyday evangelized evangelizers.

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

The Rite of Christian Initiation and its implementation are vital for the continued growth and renewal of the local parish. The Office of Christian Initiation provides vision, advocacy, formation and pastoral leadership training, serving the continued development and implementations of Christian Initiation of both adults and children of catechetical age.

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

The Office of Marriage and Family Life seeks to provide pastoral formation, leadership training and advocacy for the holistic vision of Catholic marriage, human sexuality and family life. Key aspects of this office is to promote a true Catholic vision with marriage preparation, & marriage enrichment retreats. A Family Life Conference is being planned for 2011, a greatly needed service to Catholics in the Archdiocese and the surrounding area of South Texas.

OFFICE OF MISSION AWARENESS

The Mission Awareness Office-Propagation of the Faith for the Archdiocese of San Antonio serves as a link to the Universal Church through Mission Education activities, Mission Sending (connecting those interested in Mission experiences) and Mission Fund Promotion.

Ministries Funded

OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Office of Victim Assistance offers immediate pastoral care to those who have been sexually abused by clergy, archdiocesan staff or church volunteers. The office also provides educational opportunities for archdiocesan and parish leadership regarding the effects of abuse on victims and appropriate ministerial boundaries as well as educating children and adults about preventing abuse, encouraging behaviors that keep children safe, and acting to protect children if abuse occurs.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Office of Youth and Young Adults serves to grow and strengthen Disciples of Jesus Christ, to help them become more integrated, empowered and actively visible in the life of their parish (community). 6,200 youth and young adults are served directly each year.

PILGRIM CENTER OF HOPE

The mission of the center is to guide individuals, families and neighborhoods toward finding a deeper relationship with Christ. It serves the Archdiocese as a resource center for complimentary material on the faith, a meeting place for faith formation groups, bible study groups and one day retreats. In the past 5 years over 2,000 men have attended The Catholic Men's Conference to discover in a deeper way; male spirituality, the truths of Faith and their role as son, spouse, father and friend. In existence since 2001, the mission of The Catholic Women's Conference is to foster an appreciation for the personal dignity of the women, to encourage women to know and love God and to transform their family and society.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER

Established in 1892, Today's Catholic Newspaper is the official publication of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and provides Catholic perspectives on daily life for the Archdiocese. Catholic doctrine and teachings are presented clearly while the concerns of Catholic laity are addressed.

PASTORAL FORMATION (\$332,900)

LAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The shortage of priests makes training lay ministers to work in our churches essential to the future of our parishes. The Appeal provides funding to help parishes and mission churches underwrite a variety of formation programs including those provided by the Mexican-American Catholic College (MACC), Oblate School of Theology, and the Archdiocesan Catechetical Center. Over 3,000 adults recommended by their Pastor for training and formation are assisted yearly.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATERIALS FOR POOR PARISHES

This program provides educational materials critical to the faith formation of children and teenagers participating in religious education programs in poor parishes. These parishes are unable to afford books and instructional materials for their students. Your support also underwrites the cost of educating religious education teachers in poor parishes that otherwise could not afford training.

Ministries Funded

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

The Appeal underwrites the cost of providing Bible Education and Faith Sharing Programs. Training parishioners to lead parish-based bible study courses has increased the frequency of Bible Study Programs in many parishes and the number of parishes conducting programs. The Department of Education is projecting about 1,000 new people will take advantage of classes, workshops, etc offered for Scripture Studies.

DEANERY COORDINATORS

The Deanery Coordinators serve as a liaison between their deanery and the archdiocesan office. Deanery Coordinators work effectively and creatively with all the pastors of a particular deanery to facilitate planning of realistic goals and then administrate the programs that are life-giving and ensure growth and faith formation. Deanery coordinators collaborate with and give support to the various staff members and lay leaders to offer programs on a deanery level in an effort to provide services a parish would find it difficult to offer by themselves; for example, an annual youth retreat or liturgical training of lay ministers.

WORSHIP/LITURGY

The Office of Worship fosters and promotes ongoing Liturgical Renewal in the parishes of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The office will fund a formation program for parishes to comply with GIRM directives on the purification of sacred vessels, to develop a formation program for Masters of Ceremonies who assist the Bishops in Liturgical Celebrations, and to institute a strong Spanish liturgical music program to enhance the solemnity and reverence of liturgical celebrations.

EDUCATION AID (\$390,000)

ASSUMPTION SEMINARY

Assumption Seminary exists for the spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and human formation of seminarians for diocesan priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church. Assumption Seminary's goal is to enable Christ-centered men to grow and develop as collaborative bilingual and culturally aware pastoral leaders.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Founded by the Pope Leo XIII and sponsored by the bishops of this country, Catholic University of America is an institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church. Every archdiocese and diocese contributes support for Catholic University of America. Funds go directly to help defray its operating costs.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Last year, over 360 children, otherwise unable to attend Catholic schools because of lack of financial resources, were assisted, enabling them to receive a Catholic school education. Over the past decade, more than 4,000 of the neediest children throughout the Archdiocese have been assisted partially thru the Archbishop's Appeal.

Ministries Funded

SEMINARIAN SUPPORT (\$350,000)

SAN ANTONIO SEMINARIAN FUND

The cost of educating seminarians should never be an obstacle to those who have been called by Christ to serve in the priesthood. The Appeal helps provide the resources necessary to train the priests of tomorrow. It underwrites the programs that prepare well-trained, mature clergy with a keen understanding of the role and spirituality of a priest. This training prepares competent and committed priests capable of ministering within the many cultures represented in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

PRIEST PENSION (\$300,000)

PRIESTS' PENSION PLAN

Support will help to ensure an adequate pension for all our priests, now and in the future. Because of an increasing number of priests reaching retirement age, adequate financial resources will not exist if steps are not taken now to support the plan. Retiring priests have spent their lives ministering to the people of this archdiocese. We owe them the peace of mind in their retirement.

OLD SPANISH MISSIONS RESTORATION (\$100,000)

Founded between 1720 and 1731, the Old Spanish Missions marked the beginning of the Catholic Church in San Antonio. These historic church buildings have deteriorated over the centuries. As a result, a \$15 million dollar capital campaign is underway to ensure these beautiful churches retain their historical, cultural, spiritual, educational and architectural value, preserving them for the benefit, enjoyment and use of all of us today, and for the generations that come after us. Archbishop's Appeal funding will be used to help restore and preserve the San Antonio mission churches and to establish a permanent endowment to fund future upkeep.

LONG RANGE PLANNING, PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT (\$306,300)

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Essential to future services and to the continued strength and growth of the Catholic community, this program provides support for financial planning and development in the Archdiocese and a systematic, coordinated approach to cultivating support.

2010 ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL (\$321,550)

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Underwrites the cost of materials, printing, mailing, staffing and the on-going operation of the Appeal effort.

Impact Statements

THE CATECHETICAL CENTER

This grant touches the lives of hundreds of children and their teachers in poor parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. One particular parish, St. Henry, has an extraordinary catechetical leader, Sr. Virginia Clara Ruiz, HCG. The financial need in this parish of 1,300 families is extreme. The annual religious education fee for each child in the program is \$5.00. Many cannot pay; none are turned away. To purchase new textbooks for the nearly 400 students in her catechetical program, she needed over \$7,000.00. In order to fund textbooks; Sr. Clara elicited the help of many. The Infant Jesus Society provided \$2,000.00 to assist Sr. in funding the textbook purchase. Sr. Clara applied for Archdiocesan Appeal funding through the grant for "Religious Education Materials for Poor Parishes" and was awarded \$3,000.00. To raise the remaining money she held a BBQ dinner plate sale, arranging for the donation of the food and volunteers from parish organizations to provide cooks and servers. She had a second fundraiser of "turkey breast with trimmings" to raise the balance. In all, she raised over \$4,000 for textbooks. She received textbooks for her entire catechetical program. The publisher gave her over \$400 worth of free teachers' manuals and provided two-hour training for the catechists in use of the materials. Without the assistance of the Archbishop Appeal grant, replacement of worn-out and out-dated textbooks would not have been possible.

ASSUMPTION SEMINARY

Assumption Seminary ordained 9 men for the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the Order of Priesthood this year. This is the largest class ordained in over three decades. Our ministry has impacted many people in the Archdiocese. Being able to place nine new priests in the parishes throughout the San Antonio Dioceses makes a difference in everyone's life. As new priests, they will continue to look after the religious, moral and ethical education of thousands of men, women and children in the parishes they will serve. These priests, particularly the young ones, can have a very positive impact upon the youth of our Catholic Church. Assumption Seminary will continue to have an impact on several generations to be served by our future priests.

THE BORDER ORGANIZATION

Over the past 12 months, TBO leaders prevented a 20% cut in the Del Rio Police Department budget. They worked with city council to provide the park with additional lighting and more police patrols to prevent crime in the area. In the San Felipe neighborhood, leaders worked to have the city repair faulty sewers. In the colonias, they helped pass an ordinance which allowed colonia residents to use the city dump free of charge and had the county clean up several vacant lots. In education, TBO leaders worked with bus drivers to restore their yearly "step" increase which had been reduced to 28 cents to 17 cents. TBO leaders are working an IAF organization to increase the availability of CHIP and Medicaid; they are working with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez to build a bridge into the Cienegas Terrace Colonia to increase accessibility; they are working to prevent the school district from removing teachers' aides from classrooms and ensuring that Laughlin AFB continues to provide jobs for the community.

Impact Statements

BRAZOS EXTENDIDOS

Our ministry has made a difference in the lives of many. We have been working with an uninsured, single mother living in Comal Country. She is suffering from depression and Borderline Personality Disorder features and has been undergoing counseling on a weekly basis since February. We have been making slow but steady progress in treating her very incapacitating thoughts and are working on restoring her self-esteem. It has been a difficult journey for her, but after months of therapy, she is finally moving in a positive direction. We are restoring her ability to trust in her own self worth. This has been a particularly difficult case, but she is a woman of faith and she takes some comfort in our discussions of spirituality as well as psychotherapy. She has suffered greatly over the years with behavioral issues that have made it very challenging for family members to handle her and for her to even handle herself. As her depression subsides, though, and she gains greater clarity into her work and other options, there is less tension in the home and between her and her nine-year-old daughter.

CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

A woman was born by a midwife in 1936. Her birth was registered with the state. But to get a passport, she needed to prove that the birth assisted by a midwife was really in the USA. The passport office calls into question all midwife assisted births. She had presented many records such as baptismal, confirmation, and marriage certificates, tax receipts, all to no avail. She contacted the state Representative and his office contacted the archives and advised her to get her school record as well as her siblings records as some were born before and after her. The records were from Our Lady of Guadalupe School on El Paso St. This office was able to supply the needed copies and it showed that the family had resided there continually and with this she was granted a passport. Now she can visit her relatives in Mexico as well as travel anywhere and she is assured the status of an American Citizen.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The wife of one of our clients deserted him and their three sons for the second time. The three boys, ages eight, six, and two-and-a-half, are already undergoing counseling to help them cope with life without their mother. Since the food stamps the family used for groceries were in the mother's name and she did not pay child support, the family was suffering financially. This single father lost two good jobs in recent months. He secured work as a truck driver carrying and delivering gravel. His job often required him to spend long hours on the job, go out of town or even out of state, and sometimes required overnight travel. Since his wife deserted the family, he was unable to leave home for extended periods of time to do his job because he could not afford hiring a babysitter. Unable to leave his children alone, he could not find suitable employment. He got behind on all his payments and his credit suffered. He was certain to be evicted if he could not come up with the rent money right away. Catholic Charities was able to give this man a glimmer of hope by paying part of his rent and utility bills and by providing him with food, clothing, and even an HEB gift card to get other urgent necessities. This assistance gave him a little more time to find employment and make arrangements for the care of his children.

Impact Statements

GUADALUPE HOME

I recall the final acceptance interview with one of our clients who had recently transitioned out of the home into permanent housing. As I held my hand out to welcome her to the Guadalupe Home, she covered her face and began to sob. At that instant I had no idea what might be going on in her mind; I just knew she was overwhelmed. Throughout her stay at the Guadalupe Home, I was privileged to see her fall head over heels for her new baby girl, speaking so gently to her baby in a manner I had not previously heard from her before and growing in her new role as a loving and nurturing mother. Upon being asked to give advice to the other moms at a resident meeting, she said, "I have done bad things...you know what I mean...really bad things. I'm so happy to come to a place where I can let all of that go. I would never go back to doing that." She didn't have to detail or clarify; we all had our understanding of what "really bad" meant. Her success story in shedding bad habits and doing good things she had never done in your life are an everyday account at Guadalupe Home.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES

A young woman had left horrible conditions in her home country of Honduras where her stepfather began sexually abusing her at a young age, resulting in a pregnancy at age 12. Consequently, her mother kicked her out of the house, and she was homeless and alone on the streets with a newborn at age 13. She met her husband while she was at a shelter, and when he left for the U.S. to make a better life for him and his family, his sister convinced our client to join her at the train station. She was taken in by a woman who made her a domestic servant for several weeks to "earn" her passage to the U.S. One night, several men came and bought her from the woman and drove her to a house several hours away. There, they kept her for three months where she was beaten, raped and sold for sex. She was again sold to someone in the U.S. and transported across the border. She was found in the trunk of the car when the vehicle was stopped by immigration. She was hospitalized, detained and subsequently attempted suicide due to the trauma she suffered. Catholic Charities Immigration Services was able to get her released on her own recognizance and the director personally flew her out to California to be with her husband. Despite the inability to get her certified, we are hard at work on her T-visa application as she was clearly a victim of human trafficking.

CATHOLIC TELEVISION OF SAN ANTONIO (CTSA)

CTSA received the following letter from a viewer:

My husband and I have been caregivers to our parents for the past 8 years. We find that CTSA has been able to provide the spiritual touch of the church which they could no longer attend. Both sets of parents were founding members of their respective churches. My parents were cared for at home until their passing this year within 8 months of each other. My father-in-law lives in a nursing home where he has a TV set in his room where he can watch CTSA still. I know my elderly aunts and uncles at home or in nursing homes watch CTSA. They are in their late 80's and have lived a faith filled life in the church and raising their children in the same tradition. We are supporters of CTSA in a big way and encourage you to continue your mission of bringing scripture and the sacraments as close to our elderly as possible through song, sight and word. God Bless You.

Impact Statements

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

One single mother brought her child to DePaul Family Center daily so she could attend classes at San Antonio College and study for a career in education. This child was in several other childcare centers before coming to DePaul. At the other centers, this child was constantly being corrected and “punished” for misbehaving. This child is thriving at DePaul and plays with all of the classmates, shares toys, and helps the teachers keep the room in order. The affordability of this program allowed this single mom the time to go to school in the morning, and work part-time in the afternoon. Because of the stability of childcare, this mother told us that her child loves coming to school. The behavior at home improved too. This child learned to express himself through the use of words. The mother and child play together more as a result of learning the importance of play and parent interaction. With the support of our early education program, this mother recognized that a quality early childhood education not only prepares children for school, but also strengthens families and communities.

LAY MINISTRY TRAINING

After 8 years of volunteering in youth ministry and doing a wonderful job under the direction of the Pastor, a parish member was approached by a person from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center to apply for an associate’s position in the Youth Ministry Office. Excited by the possibilities, she was disappointed to find out that she not only needed to be certified in Youth Ministry, but that the position also required a degree or advanced certifications. After consultation with the Director of Education, she was counseled to begin her preparation as a professional youth minister assisted with funding through the Archbishop’s Appeal for Lay Ministry. Since she had two small children, she and her husband were at that time strapped for funds. With continued help from her Pastor and parish, her supportive husband, and the Archbishop’s Appeal, she is now well on her way along the path of education. All of her studies are giving Joan the tools to develop new and exciting programs for her parish and is energizing many of the ministers in her deanery. She is taking an active role in the Archdiocese and collaborating closely with the Youth Office in planning and implementing new programs and projects. Because she herself is a young adult, she will have many more years to dedicate to the Church in ministry with youth all because of the financial assistance given through the Archbishop’s Appeal for Lay Ministry.

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Couples attending Marriage Enrichment Retreats learn how to live God’s plan for their marriage and family and to shape all their thoughts and actions according to that plan, thereby loving and serving each other as Christ loves and serves his Church. One couple said that inviting God into their marriage strengthened their bond and enabled them to use tools like healing and forgiveness. “Through the retreat our relationship got stronger, our communication got clearer and we know that our family life will be healthier and our children happier because of it.”

Impact Statements

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINISTRY

Being ordained a priest is for life. But sometimes, disabilities or illness limit the ability to continue doing the work God has called our priests to do. Despite a major medical problem, Fr. Stephen White, MSC recuperated and participated in attending our Meetings and Special Activities ("Laughter & Prayer are the Best Medicine"), serving in our organization in various capacities. Since Fr. Stephen, no longer drives, transportation is provided to allow him to visit persons at hospitals, to bless homes and families by doing the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to give the Sacrament of the Sick, to Celebrate Mass at St. Matthew's Church or to attend a Knights of Columbus meeting where he served as Spiritual Director. Ministry for Persons with Disabilities has been a Blessing and a Spiritual Connection for Fr. Stephen White MSC, because it enabled him to continue his Priestly Ministry, even in his Semi-Retirement Age. In making a difference in his Life of Service, it has also opened avenues for him to make contact with many persons in the Archdiocese and, thus, enrich lives with his kindness, compassion & concern.

PARISH MISSIONS

The Catholic faith continues to be practiced in parts of the world where people are suffering from great poverty. Along the border, I have accompanied St. Mary Magdalen's Deacon Jerry Campa on trips to see how the families benefit from the gifts of food that are donated. I have also learned from Deacon Jerry about how several young people have been able to finish their studies because of the support of his mission trips. Short term mission experiences help people grow in compassion and gratitude. Parishes like St. Matthew's, St. Dominic's, Prince of Peace, and St. Mary Magdalene, that go on mission trips or help people who are suffering from great poverty in other parts of the world, bring hope to others while they grow in their understanding of stewardship.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Recently we received a letter from a woman who made a \$20 contribution to the Archbishop's Appeal in gratitude for the many blessings she had received from God. After having gone through some very difficult times, she was now employed, had food on the table and was able to take care of her children. The agencies that helped her were more than likely the same agencies supported through the Appeal. Another donor sent in a pledge for \$100 with a promise to honor it and increase it as soon as he found employment. He asked for prayers in his search and said he understood the importance of the work supported by the Appeal. Both of these individuals understand the concept of good stewardship by thanking God for all the blessings he bestows on us and by trusting Him to help us in our time of need. As a Church, we are all members of the same body and we help one another with prayers and with gifts of our time, talent and treasure. This concept of good stewardship is one that the Archbishop's Appeal tries to nurture and develop within our parishes and throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio as we work with parishes and donors to raise funds necessary to fund the ministries seeking our support.

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OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SAFETY EDUCATION

A young girl who was abused by her uncle and threatened not to tell received abuse prevention information at the Catholic school she attends. From that class, she knew that it was not her fault she was abused and she gained the courage to tell her mother. Though it was difficult for the mother to hear about her brother doing this to her daughter, the mother knew she had to report this to the authorities and that she needed to get the young girl help. Now the young girl is receiving therapy at OVASE once a week to assist her in her healing. While the young girl is in therapy, her mother is receiving parenting education on how to help her daughter cope with the abuse and how to protect her other children from abuse. The woman has been extremely grateful that the Archdiocese of San Antonio has this program to educate both adults and children on abuse prevention.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

A young man who participated in young adult ministry events appeared to be outgoing, but it was evident that he lacked confidence in growing as a leader or even spiritually, feeling uncertain and unworthy. As a result of one-to-one encouragement and associating with peers in YAM events, he gradually stepped up to leadership in helping conduct certain YAM events as well as more fully sharing responsibilities with his peers in a Young Adult group at his parish. In addition to various YAM events, he attended leadership workshop and has developed to be a leader among his peers. In seeking pastoral guidance, he expressed some concerns he had been wrestling with over the last year. He was able to make difficult life choices by applying discernment principles he had learned through young adult ministry workshops and speaker-based programs as well as personal discussions.

WORLD YOUTH DAY OPERATIONS

When 95 World Youth Day pilgrims returned to the Archdiocese of San Antonio from Australia, the energy and spirit was not merely a burst of excitement for a week long adventure with counterparts from around the globe. There would be far-reaching implications for many young adults as they returned to their homes, parishes and peer communities. The overall performance was certainly life-changing and allowed many young adults to better connect to the Holy Father, the Church and the many faces of God around the world. Such is the case with a special young lady that participated in hope of growing in faith and discerning

meaning in her life. She embraced the responsibility of being Catholic and actively engaging in her parish. She learned to serve on parish council and provide young perspectives in the parish community. In conjunction with other peers, she has supported youth ministry and been a witness to those younger than she. Additionally, she was a leader in developing a young adult group and facilitates the core team as they grow as a ministry. She has become more confident in who she is as a baptized Catholic and continues to seek learning about Church teachings and what she can do to help other young adults nurture their faith. Her experience in ministry with peers continues to have a life-giving affect on her as a person, her peers, and her parish community.

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PILGRIM CENTER OF HOPE

I am a cradle Catholic. Although my parents did not continue Catholic formation while I was growing up; the Lord in His mysterious ways has shown me, His lost sheep, the way to Him in various ways through events, people, and ministries found in our rich Catholic Faith. One of them has been the Catholic Women's Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The Lord gave me the privilege to volunteer for this powerful tool of evangelization of our Archdiocese. Seeing the faces, the smiles, the joy, the peace, conversion and spiritual healing of many women that attended this conference is a testimony that the Holy Spirit of the Lord is truly guiding the Pilgrim Center of Hope and the Committee to rescue, nurture and save His sheep, his own daughters. Women are hungry to know more about Jesus and His Church. They are hungry like I am still hungry for Him to know more of Him. The talks given by speakers tells you that you are not alone, that the church founded by Christ is not asking anything impossible, you can reach it, you can reach sainthood! The Saints did it; we can, too! I see volunteering in it as a work of mercy. The Catholic Women's Conference is a vivid example in our time of a spiritual work of mercy.

PRIEST PENSION PLAN

The grants received from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal each year continue to positively impact the retired priests of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. By the end of 2009 there will be a total of five newly retiring. This will raise the number of priests receiving checks from the Priest's Pension Fund to 84. In 2010 an additional five priests will be retiring and in 2011 another five priests will retire. The financial obligation to these retired priests continues to grow as many of our priests reach age 70. These priests of our Archdiocese have worked and ministered tirelessly and with low pay throughout their lives. The retirement benefits they receive from the Priest's Pension Fund are basic to provide a retirement of simple dignity and honor. Many of these priests, while retired and between ages 70 and 94, continue to be active in volunteer services to individuals, parishes and agencies, which is a testament to their untiring commitment to the Church and Archdiocese of San Antonio. The assistance of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal Grant is essential to meeting the retirement obligations to our retired priests.

SAMMINISTRIES

One of our clients didn't grow up with his biological family...he was raised in the foster care system. He had left his father's home because of his father's substance abuse. In September 2008, he arrived at SAMMinistries Emergency Shelter, where he immediately began learning to respect boundaries and to be responsible for himself and his own finances. A hard worker, he struggled with staying focused on his own goals, as he was often spending much of his time advocating for others. Eventually, he understood that some of that passion to help others needed to be focused inward and he was able to secure steady employment and move into his own apartment. Shortly after his departure from SAMMinistries, he phoned to say that he left one of his jobs to work for a non-profit organization where he assisted others in job searching. SAMMinistries was able to assist him with furniture and household items.

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PROJECT RACHEL

What I experienced at Project Rachel forever changed the way I view abortion and abortion-minded women and men. I learned of my wife's abortion 14 years ago before we were married, but never had the nerve to speak to her about it. I felt as though it was a regrettable mistake, and like the sins of my past, were between her and God. I was of the mindset that it was something that, in time, she would "*get over*". The original purpose of my attending Project Rachel was to be supportive of my wife who went to prepare herself to be the best sidewalk counselor she could be, and to experience a program she was promoting to other post abortive women. It didn't take long to realize that she was in need of acknowledging her motherhood and grieving the loss of her child. My heart broke when I learned how my wife and others just like her felt as though they had no other choice but abortion. I never stopped to think that there may be circumstances in the lives of these abortion-minded women, which were not of their own making, that influenced their decision to abort their child. I felt a sense of shame for all the times I misjudged abortion-seeking women who may be reacting to the effects of the emotional trauma brought on by mentally ill parents, or a history of abuse and neglect. I felt a sense of real sadness for the women who had no real support system available to them or those who were emotionally abandoned by loved ones. I learned how abortion is seen, by so many, as an obligation that women "owe" our abortion-minded society. I was also reminded of the fact that over 20 years ago, I did nothing to prevent the abortion of my niece or nephew. I learned what happens to those of us who participate in abortion and try to move on with our own lives without repentance and appropriate healing. I see what it has done to me, my wife and my brother. I will be forever thankful for what the Project Rachel ministry has done for me, my wife and for all those affected by abortion.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

When their newly hired person quit one week prior to the first day of classes for Religious Education, one volunteer, who was retired from being a volunteer DRE, agreed to help until Father had a chance to find someone else. Because she felt a little "rusty", her Pastor recommended that she seek financial assistance from the Archbishop's Appeal Scripture Study grant for the two-year program of Biblical Catechetical Program. All was going well, but the Lord led her on yet another journey—breast cancer. Even though she had to miss some of her parish work, she found great consolation from her Scripture Studies during her recuperation time after surgery and treatment. With so many additional bills to pay, there would have been no way that she could have completed the Biblical Catechetical Program without the Archbishop's Appeal's financial assistance. She has been so grateful, and her Pastor shares about how her studies have enhanced her ministry in the parish. She has been able to assist him in his own reflections for homily preparations and to bring a welcome addition to his Advent and Lenten Scripture classes.

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SETON HOME

I lived at Seton Home for almost two years before learning skills to live on my own. Before I lived at Seton Home, I was living with my aunt for a year after my mother was sent to prison. My father passed away when I was 7 years old. I was sent to Seton Home after my aunt, who was my foster mother, kicked me out when she found out I was pregnant. I wanted to have my child but needed to learn the skills to become a great mother. I was in an abusive relationship with my son's father, and knew that I wanted a better life for my son and me. Not only did I attend and graduate from the parenting program at Seton Home but so did my son's father. The greatest gift Seton Home gave me was learning how to bond with my son. Even though I did not have any family support, I had my son and we are each other's family. I now have my own apartment, work full time, and attend school full time. I want my son to have a better life than I did. I want what every parent wants for their child a successful future and to appreciate what he has, and to help others. Seton Home taught me skills that I use every day. I am currently enrolled at Northwest Vista College studying to receive a degree in social work or public health. I want to help teen moms and foster children like myself. When someone asks me what did Seton Home do for me, my response is, "What didn't Seton Home do for me?"

SISTER'S CARE

One of our clients, a 79 year-old former Veteran who had lost both legs as he proudly served his country, had applied for assistance elsewhere and was not able to get the help he needed in order to continue living in his own apartment. I received a phone call about this gentleman who was being threatened with eviction simply because he could not keep himself or his place clean. When I arrived to see him he was sitting at his table and was crying. A social worker was trying to convince him to sign papers to be placed in a nursing home. I introduced myself, gave him a hug and told him everything was going to be okay. He cried and explained to me in Spanish that he did not want to leave his home, that he just needed a little help. I asked the social worker if he would give Sisters Care a chance and to check back in two weeks to see for himself what a difference we could make. As a double amputee, our client mopped his apartment from his wheelchair and would bathe himself and wash his clothes the best he could. What was missing was someone to stretch out a hand with love and compassion and to help with his physical and emotional needs that would make all the difference in the world. Two caregivers from Sisters Care remained with him until the day he went to heaven. Always well groomed, nicely shaven, neatly dressed, and well fed with the assistance of the caregivers, he made lifelong friends at the apartment complex and with Sisters Care. We were able to restore his dignity and help him remain in his home two years longer, making all the difference in the world to him.

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ST. PETER AND JOSEPH CHILDREN'S HOME

In January, St. PJ's received a call asking if we could take a sibling group of seven children. After hearing their story and learning how great their need to stay together was, we said "yes". The six girls and one boy, ranging from 2 years to 8 years of age, came to us with absolutely nothing but the clothes they were wearing. It was a cold day and not one of the children had a coat and most of them had no socks on. All of the children were hungry, had very poor hygiene, and their clothes and shoes were very dirty and did not fit well. The children were removed from the care of the family because the Mother and Grandmother had been incarcerated for using drugs and other illicit activities. The children were living in what was described as a "shack" with no water or electricity. With the exception of the oldest child, none of the children had been to school, had not been immunized and had received no medical or dental care. The children were confused, afraid and shy but St. PJ's staff quickly made the children feel safe and cared for. Over the next few days the children gradually began to feel safe enough to start trusting in the staff. Three months later, all of the school age children were attending classes and are thriving. If St. PJ's had not been able to take these children, they would most likely have been separated-which would have been yet another tragedy in their young lives.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Staff writer for Today's Catholic, Carol Sowa, authored an article about two "angels" who visited hospitalized members of the military at Brooke Army Medical Center, Wilford Hall Medical Center and the Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital. Patricia Gallagher of Pennsylvania, creator of the Team of Angels Project, and Laura Brown of Wyoming, organizer of laptops for the wounded, had plans to visit military hospitals in San Antonio and teamed up to make their trips a joint effort. Gallagher has given away 100,000 angel pins in what is basically a one-person project she has been financing herself. Brown has distributed 39 laptops with webcams to military hospitals for patient use. Both women had reached a point where they needed help to continue running their projects. Not long after, the article was published by Catholic News Service. It appeared in Today's Catholic and then the story ran in other diocesan newspapers across the country. At the end of the article was contact information with the phone numbers and web sites for other efforts. Carol was contacted by both Gallagher and Brown soon after they had been inundated with calls and emails offering assistance for their outreach projects. We believed Carol's feature, which was submitted for National Honors to the Catholic Press Association, has made a huge difference in the lives of at least these two women, along with the soldiers to whom these women would like to see their message of hope continue to be passed on to, as well as others beyond the military.

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CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

One student had just lost her mother to cancer. It was her first semester at San Antonio College (SAC) and she was having a difficult time coping with all the changes that were taking place in her young life. I still remember that day that she stopped by the Catholic Student Center; she was very quiet and painfully shy. I welcomed her into the center and offered her a tour of the turn of the century home that had served as SAC Catholic Student Center since 1965. As we began the tour I handed her a calendar of events that were to take place that month. Nearing the end of the tour, she stopped me and quietly asked about something that had caught her eye on the calendar. She asked "What is Adopt-A-Nun"? I began to explain to her that Adopt-A-Nun was an outreach ministry with a group of retired Teresian Sisters that had taught me in my youth and that we visited once a month. She expressed a desire to accompany us on our next visit as she circled the date on her calendar. The day to visit the Sisters finally arrived and she was one of the first students in the white van that transported us to the little convent on the Southeast side of San Antonio. When we arrived at the Teresian Convent we were greeted at the door by the Mother Superior of the order. She guided the students down the long narrow hallway that lead to the sister's living room. As the students entered the living room, they were greeted warmly by the elderly Sisters with smiles and laughter. After the students had said their hellos to each sister, one of the students announced "today we're baking chocolate chip cookies!" The Sisters responded with cheers and clapping. While the cookies were being prepared, I noticed that the student and one of the older Sisters disappeared into the convent chapel. She later told me that the sister prayed with her and spoke to her about the death of her mother. I'm not sure what the elderly nun said to her, but after that day she seemed to be a happier young lady. Needless to say she never missed a visit with the Sisters.