"For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be."

Matthew 6:21
My dear friends,

Our Archdiocese encompasses a vibrant region filled with an extraordinary group of people. We are blessed with more than 530,000 faith-filled, industrious, and committed Catholics of all ages from Litchfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties who represent the diversity of God's human family and our greater Church. We are here to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, to offer sacrifice and praise, and to reach out to those in need.

Where we are today as an Archdiocese, both spiritually and materially, is a result of what has been passed down by generations of Catholics before us who moved our Church forward by their faith and their commitment to our parishes, our schools, and our ministries. Now is a pivotal moment for us and our generation to do the same for the sake of a vibrant future. We are called to be “missionary disciples” who build and invest for the future, both spiritually and materially, to serve better the communities in which we live, and for the sake of our children's children.

To that end, after much prayer and consultation, it is with confidence in divine providence and in the commitment of our Catholic people that I share with you Forward with Faith, an historic undertaking for the Archdiocese of Hartford as the first archdiocesan-wide capital campaign in our 175-year history.

What does it mean to move Forward with Faith? We are being called upon to:

- Ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for our parishes to nurture the next generation of Catholics;
- Provide high quality educational, catechetical, and formational opportunities for students in our Catholic schools and catechetical programs, as well as for adult leaders, volunteers, and everyone seeking life-long learning in the faith and in service to the church’s mission;
- Respond to the growing needs of the disadvantaged and vulnerable by increasing the reach and capabilities of our social service programs across the Archdiocese of Hartford; and,
- Innovate to meet the evolving needs of our diverse communities in each of our three counties.

It is my hope and heartfelt desire that you will join me in making this great endeavor a success. The campaign will be conducted by The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation, Inc., which will serve as the vehicle to help the Archdiocese fulfill its strategic vision and mission. A successful campaign will ensure a sustainable future for our mission at every level – archdiocesan and parochial, short-term and long-term, spiritual and material, inwardly and outwardly in church life, education, charity, and social engagement for the good of all. Thanks to your spiritual and financial support, and with God’s blessing, I am confident that we will be successful in moving “Forward with Faith.”

God Bless You,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD
VIBRANT PARISHES

A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE FUNDS COLLECTED AT THE PARISH LEVEL WILL REMAIN AT THE INDIVIDUAL PARISH TO ADDRESS THEIR OWN LOCAL NEEDS.

AN INVESTMENT IN FAITH AND COMMUNITY

“The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God’s people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church’s life.” – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Communities of Salt and Light

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

- Parishes/Apostolates: 129 Parishes
- Active Archdiocesan Priests: 171
- Non-retired Religious Sisters: 373
- Active Deacons: 125
- Catechetical Programs:
  - Leaders: 325
  - Catechists: 3,200
- Youth Ministers: 35
- Archdiocesan Schools: 48
  - Elementary and Junior High: 7,798 students
  - High School: 4,187 students
- Parish Faith Formation:
  - Elementary and Junior High: 30,043 students
  - High School: 9,505 students
The parish is where we experience, for the first time outside our family circle, the community aspect of the faith. It is where children first see their parents, siblings, and friends worshipping together, rejoicing, or sometimes grieving, as part of one united, connected, and blessed extended family. The vibrancy of the local parish directly impacts the fullness with which each member experiences his or her faith, regardless of age.

For nearly two centuries, our parishes have served as the foundation of faith in rural and urban communities across our Archdiocese. They are the place where Catholics:

- Gather to worship, pray, and share their faith with one another;
- Engage in merciful outreach to all those who are seeking spiritual or material help;
- Serve the needs of the wider community, including the poor and marginalized in the local area, as well as the nation and around the world;
- Share their time, talent, and treasure in fulfillment of the church’s mission; and,
- Create and nourish a strong sense of mission-oriented community.

For the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford to be vibrant, our parishes must be vibrant. The Forward with Faith Campaign places great emphasis on securing the resources to ensure that our parishes will be prepared to nurture the next generation of Catholics. To that end, a minimum of 50% of the funds collected at the parish level will remain at the individual parish to address its own local needs.

This represents the single largest allocation of campaign funds, and is meant to ensure that parishes have the means to meet their greatest needs and to improve their mission and outreach. A parish may wish to make capital improvements, enhance or create new ministries, maintain existing buildings, pay off debts, or establish local designated funds to support long-term goals. The goal is to strengthen our parishes, both spiritually and financially, so that they are better positioned to carry out the gospel mission of our local Church in the Archdiocese.
For the Catholic Faith, a cathedral is the spiritual, unifying heart of every diocese because it is literally the “seat” (cathedra) of the local Bishop as a Successor of the Apostles in communion with the Pope and all other Bishops. It is from here that the Bishop appoints pastors who are sent out by him to the parishes to “teach, sanctify, and shepherd” God’s people. The Archdiocese of Hartford’s Cathedral of Saint Joseph is visited annually by more than 100,000 people who come for religious services, social service programs, high school graduations, cultural, artistic and musical celebrations, or simply for its history, architecture, and artwork.

In addition to serving the ministry of the Archbishop and as the Mother Church for all in our Archdiocese, the Cathedral campus provides family housing and community outreach services in partnership with Catholic Charities. “Cathedral Green,” the former St. Joseph Cathedral School has been transformed into affordable homes for 28 Asylum Hill families. These families are welcomed with easy access to programs and services to ensure their well-being.

The use of the Cathedral has also evolved since its dedication in 1962. And like any great building that is in constant use and that houses many activities and events, with time there is need for repair and renovation. Externally, the deterioration of limestone panels, base stones, and the retaining and plaza walls require careful attention, as does the bell tower and the historic frieze over the front doors. Inside, the magnificent and historic Austin organ, which has a significant place in liturgical celebrations and special programs, requires renovation.

Funds raised through the campaign will be used to unify the design and appearance of the grounds, creating a beautiful, quiet place for reflection and prayer. This is not only for the benefit of Cathedral parishioners and the many visitors, but also serves as an invitation to Asylum Hill neighbors and the general public to come and take some time to pray.

The campaign will make possible:

- A totally renovated lower Cathedral which will create a new Cathedral Hall for people to gather after Cathedral liturgies and other events, as well as educational and community meeting facilities, a dining area, and even some mausoleum space;
- Development of a Cathedral Square featuring a welcome plaza, pedestrian mall, memorial park, public gardens, and an outdoor gathering place for the entire community;
- Restoration of the steeple and bell tower and illumination of the steeple and Cross that crowns it; and,
- Repairs to the front plaza and the majestic bronze front doors.

Through these initiatives, we hope to create a new gateway in Hartford to welcome not only the Catholic faithful, but also the wider community, to reflect and hopefully pray in the environment created by the gardens, open green spaces, event, meeting, and educational spaces and prayerful corners, and the Cathedral itself.
The Archdiocese continues to look for new ways to accompany and support our parishes, Catholic school communities, and all the faithful to deepen our relationships with Christ, with each other, and with our neighbor. This accompaniment and support is meant to strengthen parish life, create viable and thriving schools, and help everyone to be a “missionary disciple” who can bring other people to Christ and to the practice of the Faith.

Vibrant and viable Catholic elementary and high schools play a significant role in forming missionary disciples who have a deep commitment to Christ and His Church. Currently serving approximately 12,000 students, our Catholic schools continue to be academically excellent, with standardized test scores well above the national average in math, English, writing, science, and social studies among students ranging from elementary school to high school. High school seniors (60% of whom attend Catholic elementary school on average) have consistently outperformed students across the state of Connecticut and the nation in the SAT scores while significantly exceeding all College and Career Readiness Benchmarks.

Our Catholic schools and faith formation programs are held to the highest Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Standards (ARCS) to ensure student outcomes are tracked and ultimately achieved in all essential Catholic course areas. These standards are designed to empower young Catholics to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, engage them in their role as active participants in the Church, and to foster their growth spiritually, academically, personally, and morally.

As evidenced through our academic results and strong graduation rates, our Catholic schools instill future leaders with confidence and knowledge through a strong academic program and provide opportunities for generous service to the parish and wider community. The continual strengthening of academics; strong administrative and teacher leadership; and sound management practices are all critical to the future of Catholic schools. A successful campaign will make possible grants to support faculty capacity-building, academics, and management improvements.
EDUCATING TO REIGNITE THE FAITH

Grants to promote Educational Excellence

◆ **Professional and Ministerial Development:** These competitive grants will fund creative, innovative, and transformational projects within the elementary/secondary schools, youth ministry, and parish faith formation programs of the Archdiocese.

◆ **Grants for Innovation and Learning:** This funding will allow the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis to develop programs of accompaniment, formation and retain expert speakers, mentors, coaches, and materials for this important formative work for clergy, religious, and lay leaders.

Recruitment and Retention of Exceptional Teachers and Administrators

◆ **Tuition remission for our teachers’ and administrators’ children:** Teaching in our Archdiocesan school system is a vocation – a call to serve as educators and missionary disciples dedicated to the growth and well-being of every student. The reality remains, however, that Catholic school teachers are undercompensated when compared to their peers in the public sector and this often impacts the ability of our schools to recruit and retain faculty. The Office of Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis (OEEC) estimates that our Catholic schools retain 85% of first-year teachers, with principals citing the low salary levels as a major challenge to retaining young teachers who are often supporting either student loans or new families. In order to effectively recruit and retain excellent teachers and administrators, as well as boost enrollments, we will establish a fund to benefit teachers and administrators who wish to enroll their children in a Catholic school.

◆ **Seat of Honor Awards:** Extraordinary educators and administrators in our parish elementary and archdiocesan secondary schools will be honored through an annual Seat of Honor Awards program based on nomination and specific criteria. They will receive a monetary award, as well as archdiocesan recognition.

Enhance the Teaching and Learning Environment

With a 100% overall graduation rate and 98% of our students pursuing further education (college, military, or training), our Catholic schools provide a productive, faith-filled learning environment for our teachers, administrators, and students to thrive each year. Facilities and technology play a vital role in creating this environment.
As more students are welcomed into our schools, the state of our facilities and program offerings must be evaluated on a consistent and regular basis. To this end, the Foundation will provide grants to our schools to invest in capital improvements, advanced technology upgrades and innovative methodologies.

This will include:
- Integrating STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) into our schools' curricula, as well as other relevant programs not currently offered in all schools;
- Capital improvements to financially challenged schools;
- Equipping teachers and administrators to integrate technology and innovation into their classrooms; and,
- Enhancing the financial resources of the Archdiocese's proposed "Mission Schools" to equalize the educational opportunities afforded to potential students and provide a transformative Catholic education that empowers every student to realize his or her true potential. These schools, identified by the OEEC, shall assist underserved children from ethnically diverse communities experiencing distinct socio-economic challenges within the Archdiocese.

Continuing Education and Professional Development of the Clergy
Ongoing formation and education is a necessity not only for laity, but the clergy as well. In order to fulfill their responsibilities with excellence and in an accountable way, the priests and permanent deacons of the Archdiocese need to have opportunities for continuing education and professional development. Funding will provide:
- Spiritual formation for the clergy at the various stages of their life and growth so that they are able to exercise a more fruitful ministry for the sake of the people they serve;
- Coaching, mentoring and programs to improve preaching/homiletics to accompany, evangelize and inspire each of the faithful in their spiritual journey and life of faith;
- Leadership training for clergy so that they can better inspire and bring out the gifts and talents of a parish congregation in a positive and collaborative way; and,
- More professional training through regular workshops with keynote speakers focused on parish administration (e.g. finance, advancement, school enrollment, technology, and human resources) for the sake of better organization and oversight for the many practical and material aspects of parish life, for which the clergy bear ultimate responsibility, in collaboration with others in the parish.
An Investment in the Lives of Our Neighbors

Answering Pope Francis’ call for Catholics to be “real champions in the service of others,” the Archdiocese of Hartford’s social service agencies deliver care, with respect and compassion, to individuals and families of all faiths and nationalities throughout the three counties of the Archdiocese each day. Currently, more than 50% of Catholic Charities’ funding comes from government grants, which are variable year-by-year. All of our social outreach ministries must be supported by a sustainable funding model built primarily on private support to ensure the future of critical programs, including those championed by Catholic Charities, the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry, and other ministries that serve and empower those who need our help the most. The array of our programs manifests the Gospel and Social teachings of the Church in concrete circumstances. A successful campaign will make possible grants to support and fortify social services throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Learning and Life Skills Program
Catholic Charities Services for Developmentally Disabled Adults will establish a Learning and Life Skills Program, offering comprehensive day programming and enrichment services to promote lifelong health and personal empowerment. The program will serve up to 45 developmentally-disabled individuals at any given time. Day programming will assist vulnerable adults in developing life skills, forming friendships, increasing their independence, and becoming active members of their communities. The Learning and Life Skills Program will also provide adaptive physical education and health and wellness services to those with physical disabilities, as well as vocational and educational enrichment services.

The program will include a health and wellness room, featuring adaptive fitness and exercise equipment, a graphic arts program, a green house, and a culinary arts program.

Centro San Jose
Building on more than 100 years of service to the Fair Haven neighborhood in New Haven, Catholic Charities prepares young children and teens to thrive academically and emotionally at the Centro San Jose Family Center. In each of the Center’s two sites, Catholic Charities works with parents to bolster the future success of young children. The Center’s NAEYC-
accredited school readiness programs graduate more than 95 children between the ages of three and five per year, and important housing assistance services, a food pantry, diaper bank, and Medicaid outreach and enrollment services are also offered. Today, however, the programs have outgrown available space and the Center’s two buildings are constantly facing structural challenges that necessitate near constant cleaning and costly repairs. Funds from the campaign will support:

- Relocation to a larger, more modern facility and expansion of these critical services to the high-need population in New Haven;
- Additional space for a higher quality of care within the early childhood program;
- Additional staffing to provide expanded, higher-quality youth and family center programming;
- State-of-the-art playground facilities to enhance gross motor skills; and,
- Social activity offerings, necessary for young children to succeed in their school years.

Funding will also allow Catholic Charities to expand its quality youth services to meet the needs of youth in two additional schools within New Haven.

In total, with funding, the Center will serve an additional 1,500 families and impact more than 6,500 individuals annually.

Behavioral Health
Catholic Charities is a leader in providing competent mental health and substance abuse disorder solutions for children, adolescents, and adults. Across its seven licensed clinics throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, Catholic Charities annually serves more than 7,000 people of all backgrounds through crisis resolution and ongoing support. Through the provision of strength based, family-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically competent services, Catholic Charities builds, among those it serves, mental wellness and the capacity to cope with modern life’s many challenges, including substance abuse, marital conflict, depression, anxiety, and stress.

Funding will allow Catholic Charities to add clinicians to its team; provide for community-based workshops and forums on mental health issues, including the opioid crisis, which is rampant across the state; and support small-scale renovations and equipment needs. These initiatives will ultimately expand Catholic Charities’ reach to more than 700 individuals and families per year, enabling those served to find long-term solutions that bring them into more spiritually-enriching, fulfilling, and productive lives.
Elderly Care and Intergenerational Services

Each year, Catholic Charities’ vital home, community, and center-based programs assist approximately 325 senior citizens in living independently, having continued vibrant contact with others, and remaining safe.

Additionally, its intergenerational programs connect seniors with young children, keeping seniors more active and providing support to children who may not live near their grandparents. These programs meet the needs of both age groups by providing opportunities for the elderly to be motivated and maintain community-based social interactions, while supporting young children’s development as they gain new, critical skills. These experiences leave a lifelong impression on children and let older adults feel they have made an important contribution to the next generation.

Despite the growing demand for senior services (Connecticut’s aging population has resulted in a statewide care crisis, with more than nine seniors in need of care services for every available home care worker), the funding resources required to provide these supportive services are simply inadequate. Funds raised through the campaign will dramatically enhance Catholic Charities’ home and center-based services for the elderly and intergenerational participants through the following:

- Adding three full-time staff members to support programming;
- Increasing activities and trainers for workshops and classes; and,
- Providing field trips, supplies, and other operational support to facilitate expanded services.

In total, Catholic Charities will be able to expand services to more than 450 seniors and 72 children each year.
Family Centers
Catholic Charities’ seven Family Centers currently provide 4,500 individuals with convenient access to quality family support among some of our neediest cities:

- Hartford;
- Waterbury;
- Meriden; and,
- New Haven.

Each Center provides culturally-appropriate comprehensive core services, in areas such as home visiting, parent education and support, financial security, and health and wellness. The Centers typically serve families over a period of several years, allowing for real change to happen. Their work is premised on research which shows that a healthy child who has high quality early childhood experiences, and whose family is supported in its child-rearing, will have a strong start to becoming a successful adult.

Despite the critical nature of this work, funding for Catholic Charities’ Family Centers is extremely limited, and supply cannot meet the increasingly overwhelming demand.

Funds from the campaign will enable the expansion of these Centers, which will provide lifesaving services to more than 6,000 individuals annually. Additionally, funds will be used to:

- Support a full-time manager to oversee the Family Centers;
- Ensure quality program fidelity;
- Hire additional Family and/or Fatherhood Specialists; and,
- Provide administrative support and supplies across Catholic Charities’ seven Family Centers.

The Centers typically serve families over a period of several years, allowing for real change to happen.
As we strengthen our parish communities, schools, and our charitable and social service ministries, *Forward with Faith* will also help position archdiocesan assets to be more responsive to key emerging opportunities as they develop.

Innovation occurs every day in dynamic organizations like the Archdiocese of Hartford and in our wider community. The Fund for Innovation and Emerging Opportunities will help prepare the Archdiocese to extend its reach into the broader community by supporting projects that show outstanding potential and require full or partial funding. The fund will serve as a mechanism to help the Archdiocese be more nimble in its support of programs and community partnerships facing budget barriers.

Funded programs will demonstrate potential to create long lasting, positive change and strengthen our schools and parish communities across the Archdiocese. These may include, for example, communications and marketing efforts to drive enrollment and church attendance, or programs that benefit or promote STREAM education. The transformative power of this fund will also breathe life into programs serving the wider communities.

Campaign dollars awarded through this fund will impact each of the fundraising areas that make up this campaign: Vibrant Parishes, Education to Reignite the Faith, Champions in Service to Others, and community-based services that mirror the priorities exemplified in archdiocesan programs.

Through a grant-making system, funded innovations will have a measurable impact and may often be replicable, ensuring that viable experiments give new energy and life to our schools, parishes, and surrounding faith communities.
Forward with Faith is our great opportunity to strengthen and expand the ministries, outreach, and pastoral care by which the healing, teaching, and redemptive presence of Christ is made present in every community of the Archdiocese of Hartford. As we embark on this great undertaking, we do so knowing that we are the beneficiaries of the foresight and generosity of past generations of Catholics.

It is now our turn to meet the challenges of today and to plan for tomorrow so that our parishes, schools, charities, and ministries will continue to flourish and grow for future generations. **That goal can only be realized through the support of all Catholics across our Archdiocese, beginning today, with you.**