Mission
The Special Religious Education (SPRED) Office was initiated in 1980 in the Diocese of Providence to assist in deepening the faith of people with disabilities, helping them to share fully in the work and liturgical life of the Catholic Church. Religious education for those with special needs is fostered by parish and diocesan programs.

"As a leader catechist for 11-16 year olds which includes my son, Michael, who has Down Syndrome with limited communication, I feel that the SPRED program is the sharing of my faith and love and is wonderful." - Lu-An DiSpirito, Parent/Catechist

"I believe the structure and routine of the SPRED program is so wonderful that our friends with disabilities fall into it. The love of God is evident in all we do together." - Deborah Sullivan, Catechist

"After 13 years of SPRED, I am still pleasantly surprised when one of our friends displays a word of light or comment of understanding." - Kathleen Del, Catechist

Ministry Impact
Training and support are provided to parish catechists, including curriculum and catechetical training to prepare persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the reception of the Sacraments in their parish. This leads to inclusion of special friends in their Church to experience worship and provide opportunities for them to share and witness faith among parish members.

"As a mom of an autistic son, it brings together sensory experiences that he loves—quiet time, music, community. He loves church and equates SPRED with church, so enjoys Mass." - Linda Lawrence, Parent

"SPRED has been wonderful for both of our children, Franchesca and Brandon, in so many ways, especially since they were able to make their First Communion and Confirmation. "We are very grateful." - DeAngelo Family

"The SPRED program has been a wonderful experience for my brother, Roy. He loves all the people who help and guide him in his spiritual life." - Pat Jankowski, Family Member

The Diocese of Providence continues to carry on the ministry of Jesus in its care for our brothers and sisters with disabilities. More than 2,000 people with disabilities benefit from the Diocesan Apostolate for People with Disabilities.

"SPRED is family." - Franchesca De Angelo, Special Friend

"I love Jesus, Mom and SPRED!" - Christian Quijano, Special Friend

Apostolate for People with Disabilities

- Facilitates Faith Formation for people with disabilities throughout the Diocese by supporting existing programs and developing new programs as needed.
- Collaborates with parishes, parishes and families to assure Sacramental access for children and adults with disabilities throughout their lifespan, so that as members of the Body of Christ, they participate fully in their parishes and communities.
- Facilitates strategies on improving architectural and handicap accessibility to all church buildings.
- Coordinates Holy Communion visits to the home upon request.
- Coordinates preparation and participation in Sacred Liturgy.
- Assists with the coordination of funerals and hospice care, hospital and home visits.
- Coordinates monthly Signed Liturgies for the deaf and hearing impaired.
- Coordinates and supports Sacramental access for persons who are blind.

For more information or to volunteer contact:
Irma Rodrigues, Director
401.278.4578
irodrigues@dioceseofprovidence.org
Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Providence:

As we look forward we know that there will be both challenges and opportunities for the Diocese of Providence. We will continue to do our best to be careful stewards of Diocesan resources by relying on the providence of God and, also, on the guidance, direction and support that we receive from our parishes, parishioners and friends of the Diocese.

Thank you for your continued and generous support, and may God bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Tobin
Bishop of Providence

Parishes, schools and agencies throughout the diocese benefit from the expertise and services provided by the Diocesan Administration Office.

The following is a summary and detailed list of the secretaries and the individual offices and programs which comprise each secretary.

**Ministries funded by the Catholic Charity Appeal**

**St. Annucius Residence**, a senior care facility in North Smithfield, has had a long history of providing compassionate care to all its residents. In operation since 1913, the residence offers long and short term rehabilitation, a specialty unit for Alzheimer's related disability and a Hospice Suite. There, St. Annucius continues to be the forefront of developing new and better ways to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders. In 2015, the rehabilitation center was expanded with the new "Fairy Street" design which allows in-patients the opportunity to practice everyday tasks, so they may gain independence once more. Easy Street includes a functioning kitchen, laundry room, a modified car to practice getting in and out of, an ATM machine, and much more.

The Health Care Ministry of the Diocese provides chaplaincy programs to all of the hospitals in Rhode Island. Chaplains are priests, deacons, religious sisters and lay men and women, whose ministry brings them in contact with people in a unique and sensitive way. Being in the hospital can be stressful and scary. Patients often turn to their faith and the chaplain is there for them, offering spiritual and emotional guidance. They bring the light of Christ into people's lives at a time when they need Him most.

**Rhode Island winters are harsh especially for those who can't afford to heat their homes. In 2005, the diocese created Keep the Heat On!, a heating assistance program that provides individuals and families the means to keep warm. Because of your support to the Catholic Charity Appeal as well as contributions from other entities, the diocese is able to assist those whose homes no longer have central heating.**

Keep the Heat On program has raised more than $21.2 million and provided assistance to 9,600 families and individuals throughout the state.

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**General Fund**

Diocesan Administration Corporation
Administration Offices and Programs

**Bishop of Providence**

Thomas J. Tobin

As we look forward we know that there will be both challenges and opportunities for the Diocese of Providence. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, for those who might be interested in more detail, the complete audited financial report of the Diocese is also available on our diocesan website (http://www.dioceosediocese.org).

Although there are a few signs that indicate a positive change to the general economic condition of Rhode Island and the nation, the improvement is still slow. As noted last year, a diocesan-wide parish increased giving program is in its final phase. The results are very positive with approximately 108 parishes conducting the program. The average increase has been approximately 10% which is a continued sign of the wonderful support of our dedicated parish families.

The Catholic Charity Appeal had another good year raising $7,762,536, approximately $14,000 less than the prior year. It continues to be a struggle to maintain the donor base of the diocese and the needs of Rhode Islanders. In 2015, the appeal was expanded with the new "Fairy Street" design which allows in-patients the opportunity to practice everyday tasks, so they may gain independence once more. Easy Street includes a functioning kitchen, laundry room, a modified car to practice getting in and out of, an ATM machine, and much more.

The following is a summary and detailed list of the agencies and programs supported by the Catholic Charity Appeal.

The Catholic Charity Appeal has generated resources to support its many agencies and programs which assist the social, spiritual and temporal needs of thousands of Rhode Islanders. The Diocese of Providence is the second largest provider of human services in Rhode Island awarded only by our state government. Funds raised from the annual Catholic Charity Appeal are used solely to support the agencies and programs designated to receive them.

The following is a summary and detailed list of the agencies and programs supported by the Catholic Charity Fund.