

# NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL: FUTURE OF OUR FAITH II



2023   
ANNUAL REPORT

*February 2024*

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*My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

I am so pleased to share with you the second annual report for the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA). I recognize that in this ever-changing and divisive culture, demonstrating our stewardship of your donations is incredibly important to help preserve the trust you have placed in us and in our one Church of New Hampshire. 2023 was the first full year of the NHCA where all 88 parishes participated in this new endeavor. Because of you, the NHCA raised over \$3.7 million dollars for our shared ministries and has allowed us to work toward a more sustainable and collaborative Church. In the following pages, you will find more information about the Church in New Hampshire, the funded ministries of the NHCA, and the monetary allocations of donations received as of early October. I look forward to continuing to build up our one body of Christ.

You remain in my prayers of deep gratitude.

Sincerely in Christ,

**MOST REVEREND PETER A. LIBASCI, D.D.**

BISHOP OF MANCHESTER



# WHO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



**88**

Parishes



**210,850**

Catholic Population



**1,306**

Infant Baptisms



**340**

Marriages



**113** RCIA candidates

**3,051**

First  
Communions  
& Confirmations

## CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS



**68** Diocesan  
priests in  
ministry  
in NH

**41** retired,  
ailing, or  
priests  
on leave

**35** religious  
priests &

**34** extern  
priests



**7** men ordained  
as permanent  
deacons

**70** permanent  
deacons

**1** ordination to  
transitional  
deacon in **2023**



**15** Religious  
brothers



**226** Religious  
sisters

## PARABLE MAGAZINE



**16th** year in publication

**100th Edition** –  
November/December 2023

*Parable* earned nine 2023  
Catholic Media Awards  
including four first place  
awards:

- **Best Regular Column - Bishop's Column in a Diocesan Magazine**
- **Best Feature Article - Diocesan Magazine**
- **Best Reporting of a Social Justice Issue**
- **Best Regular Column**

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN 2023



**25** diocesan, private,  
and parish schools

**5,684** total students



\*Data is from 2022 unless otherwise noted.



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

## OUR MISSION

*To bring a New Hope and the Good News of Jesus Christ through our Catholic Faith to all in New Hampshire.*

We have established **five strategic priorities** designed to deliver our mission over the coming years.

### **Develop Strong and Consistent Catholic Lifelong Formation in Our Parishes, Schools, and Home Schools**

A key priority for the Church in New Hampshire is establishing strong, consistent, and lifelong Catholic faith formation. It gives us the background, knowledge, and grace to bring the New Hope and the Good News to all. This priority was bolstered in 2017 with the “Restore, Renew, Proclaim the Hope that is Christ” initiative to strengthen lifelong faith formation, renew sacramental preparation, and restore the sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and The Eucharist) to the order designed by God.

### **Support Our Parishes and Schools in Establishing a Stable Financial Foundation**

It is critical that we have sufficient financial resources to carry out the mission of the Church in New Hampshire, especially in our parishes and schools. As part of this priority, numerous initiatives have been launched including the St. John Neumann Education Trust dedicated to the advancement of Catholic education in our state and development services for parishes including increased offertory, stewardship, capital campaign support, and planned giving programs and parish bookkeeping services.



## Strengthen and Encourage Our Priests in their Presbyteral Mission



Our priests have been called by God to be conformed to the crucified Christ and our priests are vitally important to the mission of our Diocese. To support this priority, we will provide for their continuing formation, facilitate presbyteral unity and fraternity, and help them achieve a joyous and fruitful priestly life. Additionally, as a strong priesthood is essential to the future of the Church, we will focus on nurturing priestly vocations and properly forming those who have heeded the Call.

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## Develop Leaders and Build Capacity in Our Parishes, Schools, and Administration



We know that great parishes, schools, and all great organizations have great leaders. In support of this priority, an action team has been established to provide the infrastructure to help form strong leaders and expand our leadership capabilities.

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## Renew and Reinvigorate Our Catholic Schools



Our schools are vital to the mission of the Church and our community and have always been places of hope, inspiration, and success. Catholic education is an investment with a lifelong payoff that promotes commitment to faith, prayer and virtue, a strong understanding of social justice, and a greater number of religious vocations. They develop our future Catholic leaders through strong formation, a robust academic foundation, service to others, and a solid infusion of joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ!

### FOLLOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE ONLINE!



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[twitter.com/catholicnh](https://twitter.com/catholicnh)



[instagram @dioceseofmanchester](https://instagram @dioceseofmanchester)



[youtube.com/catholicnh](https://youtube.com/catholicnh)



[catholicnh.org](https://catholicnh.org)

# MINISTRIES SERVED BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEW HAMPSHIRE

Grounded in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities New Hampshire (CCNH) serves as the social services arm of the Catholic Church. We respond to those in need with programs that heal, comfort, and empower. For more than 75 years, we have brought lasting change to individuals and families grappling with a wide range of issues impacting communities across New Hampshire, such as hunger, poverty, financial despair, mental health, homelessness, unsafe environments for children, and isolation among seniors.

CCNH is extremely grateful to be one of the ministries receiving proceeds from the NHCA.

Gifts to the NHCA only support CCNH's Community Services program, which is **1 out of 10 of our core social services programs**, providing transformative change through case management and compassionate guidance. It does not fund any of our other core social services programs.

Amazing milestones and moments occur through Community Services because of proceeds from the NHCA, generous donations, and other charitable sources. In the past year:

- ★ **2,847** individuals, from **201** towns and cities across New Hampshire, received emergency assistance, financial literacy training and other forms of support.
- ★ **11,100** gallons of oil were provided for financially struggling individuals and families across the state, preserving **4,057** days of housing for **284** people who were able to sleep in a home with heat.
- ★ **2,562** nights occurred in which an individual or family didn't have to eat or sleep in the dark due to financial assistance preventing or restoring an electricity shut-off.



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***\*\* It is important to note that the NHCA does not fund all our programs. For instance, Our Place, Liberty House, New Generation, Mental Health Counseling Services, among others, are supported through appeals conducted directly by CCNH throughout the year. That is why you will continue to hear from CCNH via direct mail, online campaigns, special events, and more.***



## SEMINARIANS

The Diocese of Manchester is committed to the formation of our priests and permanent deacons. Our priests and deacons are the lifeblood of our parish communities who offer the sacraments and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Currently, the Diocese has 12 men in seminary and each year the Diocese spends about \$500,000 on room and board and education for the seminarians. This year, the Diocese ordained one transitional deacon.



*Ordination of Reverend Mr. Eric Ouellette  
to Transitional Diaconate*



*Mr. Peter Phong Quang Lê, Holy Apostles  
Seminary (3rd Year Theology) and  
Reverend Msgr. Richard Kelley*

## PARISH SUPPORT

Through the NHCA, parishes who are experiencing financial difficulties can receive aid to help meet basic necessities such as maintenance, electricity, and heating. These are essential services that make the ministry of parish life accessible across New Hampshire. In addition, those parishes who reach their NHCA goal will receive a rebate for every dollar raised above their goal. Over \$400,000 was distributed back to parishes as rebates in 2023 from the NHCA.

## RETIRED PRIESTS

Our retired priests have given many years of service to the Lord and our communities in New Hampshire. Many of our retired priests are still actively involved in our parishes and communities and provide support to our seminarians. The Diocese of Manchester pays for benefits including health and dental insurance, housing, and monthly stipends.



*Saint Joseph Church, Lincoln*



*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Saint Aloysius of Gonzaga Parish, Nashua*

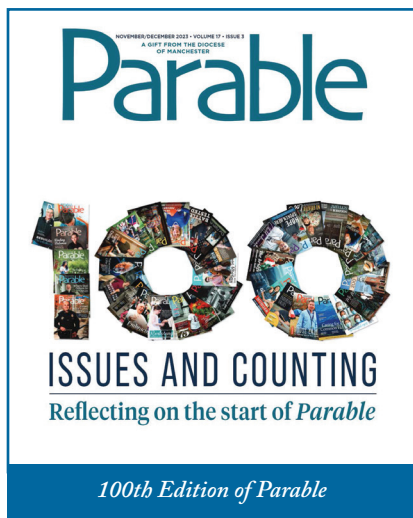
## MISSIONARY SUPPORT ABROAD, SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

The NHCA supports The Good Samaritan Home in Cartago, Colombia, run by Claire Aucoin, a New Hampshire native of Henniker. This home serves the elderly in a region where their care is often neglected. Also, a portion of the funds provides direct support to migrants and refugees throughout the state of New Hampshire in addition to supporting Diocesan multicultural ministry. Diocesan multicultural ministry serves the culturally diverse populations throughout the

Diocese by understanding and meeting their unique cultural needs as Catholics and works to support other Diocesan offices, pastors, and parish leaders in this ministry.

## PARABLE MAGAZINE

Thanks to the NHCA, *Parable* is now sent to the homes of all Catholics in New Hampshire, as well as several Catholic institutions. The magazine is a wonderful tool for evangelization across the Diocese, spreading stories of faith and community. In 2023, *Parable* was recognized by the Catholic Media Association with nine awards for its feature writing and photography.





# CATHOLIC EDUCATION

This year, the NHCA provided necessary support to the system of Catholic schools so the mission of affordability, accessibility, and availability will advance. At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, enrollment in New Hampshire Catholic schools increased for a fourth straight year—and the demand for Catholic education remains high. The NHCA assists in funding important school infrastructure improvements and projects such as facility expansion, renovation, and revitalization. Funds will also be used in the areas of curriculum enhancements, financial assistance, leadership investment, and improved compensation and benefits for faculty.



*Saint John Regional School, Concord*



*Campus Ministry 2023 Fall Retreat*

## FAITH FORMATION: CAMPUS MINISTRY AND TOTUS TUUS

The Diocese of Manchester serves and supports campus ministry in the colleges and universities in New Hampshire. Campus ministry provides Catholic students with ongoing opportunities for prayer, worship, putting their faith

into action, and learning to live their faith joyfully as young adults. Campus ministers are an important public presence and serve students, faculty, staff, in the often-challenging academic world.

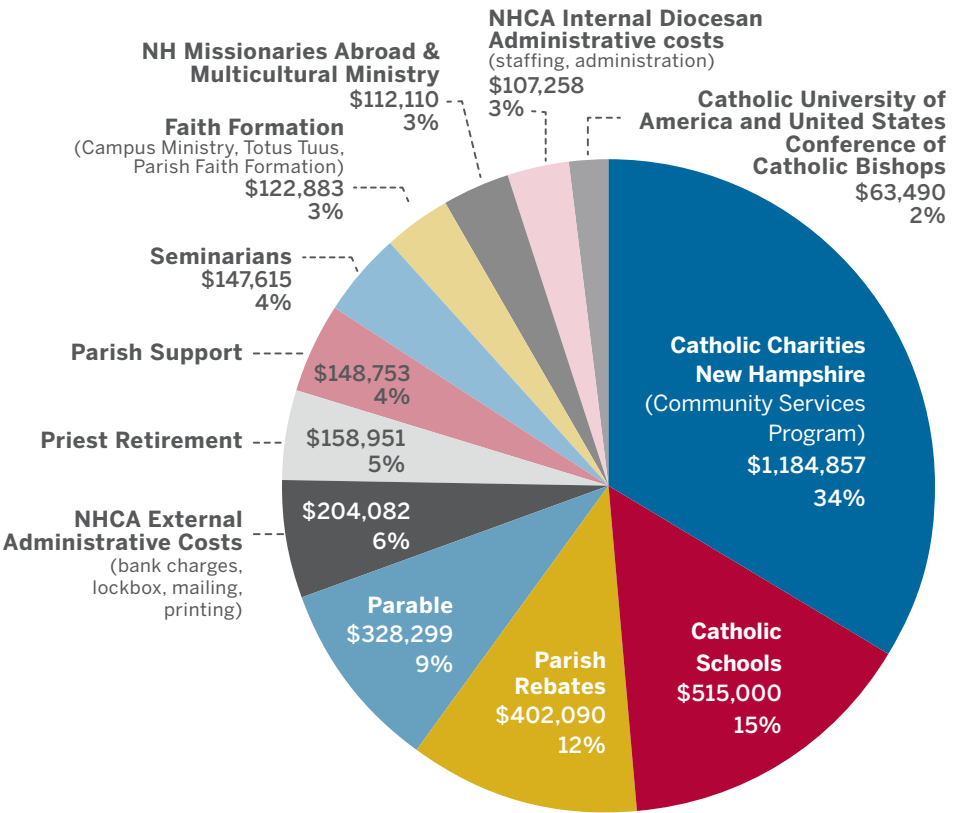
Totus Tuus is a parish-based summer Catholic youth program for both grade school and high school students dedicated to promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, witness, and worship. Teams of four specially chosen and trained college students, two men and two women, travel to a different parish each week, hosting the five-day catechetical program. Each week is filled with faith, fun, and friendship.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL RESULTS

Thanks to over 10,000 donors, the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal has raised to date over \$3.7 million which has enabled the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities NH's Community Services Program, faith formation, retired priests, seminarians, and so much more!

Also, because of the NHCA, *Parable*, an award-winning evangelizing vehicle, is now being mailed to all registered parishioners in New Hampshire. In addition, **44** out of **88** parishes reached their parish goals resulting in **\$402,090** in parish rebates as of October 2, 2023. Parishes can use these rebates at their discretion to help meet their own parish needs. Parishes are still fundraising to reach their 2023 goals which will allow for additional rebates and distributions in April of 2024. April distributions for the NHCA ministries will be similar percentages to the October distributions.

## NHCA DISTRIBUTIONS AS OF OCTOBER 2, 2023 - \$3,495,388



Thank you to all who have donated to the NHCA and we invite all who have not donated to do so today at [www.catholicnh.org/nhca](http://www.catholicnh.org/nhca) or scan the QR code using your smart phone.



*Congratulations to the following parishes who reached their  
2023 NHCA goals, which resulted in \$402,090 in parish rebates as of 10/2/2023!*

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**BLESSED SACRAMENT, MANCHESTER**

Reverend John Bucchino, OFM

**CHRIST THE KING, CONCORD**

Reverend Richard A. Roberge

**CORPUS CHRISTI, PORTSMOUTH**

Reverend Gary J. Belliveau

**DIVINE MERCY, PETERBOROUGH**

Very Reverend Michael S. Taylor, J.C.L.

**HOLY ROSARY, HOOKSETT**

Reverend Michael E. Gendron and

Reverend Steven M. Lepine

**HOLY TRINITY, PLYMOUTH**

Reverend Mark E. Dollard

**IMMACULATE HEART OF  
MARY, CONCORD**

Reverend Raymond A. Ball

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA, NEW LONDON**

Reverend Donald E. Clinton

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES, PITTSFIELD**

Very Reverend John B. MacKenzie

**OUR LADY OF MERCY, MERRIMACK**

Reverend Monsignor Paul L. Bouchard

**OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS  
MEDAL, HAMPTON**

Reverend Gary J. Kosmowski

**PARISH OF THE ASSUMPTION, DOVER**

Reverend Agapit H. Jean, Jr.

**SACRED HEART, MANCHESTER**

Reverend A. Stephen Marcoux, III

**SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE, LACONIA**

Reverend Marc B. Drouin

**SAINT ANTHONY, SANBORNVILLE**

Very Reverend Patrick N. Gilbert

**SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA,  
MANCHESTER**

Very Reverend Christopher M. Martel

**SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO,  
MEREDITH**

Reverend Monsignor Gerald R. Belanger

**SAINT CHRISTOPHER, NASHUA**

Reverend David A. Harris

**SAINT DENIS, HANOVER**

Reverend Jacob Bertrand Janczyk, O.P.

**SAINT ELIZABETH SETON, BEDFORD**

Reverend Monsignor John P. Quinn

**SAINT HELENA, ENFIELD**

Reverend Charles H. Pawlowski, KHS

**SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA,  
SOMERSWORTH**

Reverend Andrew K. Nelson

**SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, SUNCOOK**

Reverend Michael E. Gendron

**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, MERRIMACK**

Very Reverend Robert K. Glasgow

**SAINT JOSEPH, BELMONT**

Reverend Marc B. Drouin

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL,  
MANCHESTER**

Very Reverend Jason Y. Jalbert

**SAINT JOSEPH CENTER, OSSIPEE**

Very Reverend Patrick N. Gilbert

**SAINT JOSEPH, EPPING**

Reverend David A. Gagnon

**SAINT JOSEPH, LINCOLN**

Reverend John J. Mahoney, Jr.

**SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER, NASHUA**

Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

**SAINT JUDE, LONDONDERRY**

Reverend Robert E. Gorski

**SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL, ALTON**

Very Reverend Robert F. Cole

**SAINT LAWRENCE, GOFFSTOWN**

Reverend David L. Kneeland

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST,  
NEWTON-PLAISTOW**

Reverend Albert J. Tremblay

**SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST,  
LONDONDERRY**

Reverend Michael S. Zgonc

**SAINT MARY, NEWMARKET**

Reverend Matthew J. Mason

**SAINT MICHAEL, EXETER**

Reverend Matthew J. Mason

**SAINT PATRICK, MILFORD**

Reverend Dennis J. Audet

**SAINT PATRICK, NEWPORT**

Reverend Michael L. Sartori

**SAINT PETER, AUBURN**

Reverend Michael E. Gendron

**SAINT ROSE OF LIMA, LITTLETON**

Reverend Ryan C. Amazeen

**SAINT STANISLAUS, WINCHESTER**

Reverend Hugues Beaugrand, I.B.P.

**SAINT THERESA, HENNIKER**

Reverend Marcel I. Martel

**SAINT THERESA, RYE BEACH**

Reverend Gary J. Kosmowski





# Diocese of Manchester

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