

2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are reminded throughout Scripture that God has formed an everlasting covenant with us. This covenant is an invitation to enter into relationship with God and to act together in harmony with one another and all the earth. As we launch the 2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal, we invite you to join us in deepening covenants we have formed as the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

One of those covenants is to support mission and ministry in congregations aligned with our diocesan mission strategy. Last year, in addition to the \$1.2 million allocated towards ongoing mission initiatives, our diocese reserved an additional \$40,000 for allocation to new endeavors. Our diocese also awards Sending Serving grants to support domestic and international ministries that enhance the outreach of congregations through new or existing programs. We invite you to learn more about these ministries in this newsletter.

Every gift to the Bishops' Annual Appeal matters! Will you help us reach our goal?

Mission Initiatives allocations and Sending Serving grants are just two of the ways our diocese joins together to support Christ's ministry near and far. We know that with your help we can reach—and we pray, surpass!—our goal of raising \$200,000 to provide financial support for our diverse shared ministries and initiatives.

Our diocesan mission strategy is a covenant to become ever more faithful and generous disciples of Jesus. With your support, the Bishops' Annual Appeal promotes this goal through lifelong Christian formation, youth and young adult ministries, racial justice and creation care initiatives, as well as multicultural and immigration outreach.

Your generous, joyful giving to the Bishops' Annual Appeal is essential to the success of these vital, strategic ministries. Please join us in supporting this important work!

Faithfully and fondly, in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

The Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."
(Genesis 9:13)



With your support, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts annually commits \$2.2 million in grants, allocations and program support to mission initiatives, congregations, and special ministries, as well as support for the wider church. We are more than 175 congregations in eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands. We seek to be Christ's presence in the world as we answer God's urgent call together.

Mission Initiatives



Food 4 Kids, sponsored by the Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans:

Food 4 Kids (F4K) works to alleviate childhood hunger and promote literacy on the lower/outer Cape by bringing together the Church of the Holy Spirit and local communities to provide free meals and free books for children and teens in the summer when schools are out. F4K completed its 11th summer in 2023, serving free meals to 592 children and teens per day, on average, across the eight Cape Cod towns, from

Harwich to Provincetown. With a staff of six and the help of more than 130 volunteers, F4K prepared, packed, delivered and served 43,752 meals, including 1,827 breakfasts, 22,446 snacks and 19,479 lunches. F4K also feeds hungry minds, giving away more than 2,400 books this past summer, helping to fill the learning gap summer often brings. The books are carefully chosen to be age-appropriate and to speak to diversity and inclusion. F4K partners with 16 child/teen-centered summer programs in the eight towns it serves. It does the wonderful work and great programming that bring children and teens together in a safe environment. Those who can only drop in for a meal are always welcomed. F4K provides free meals to all children, without qualification, without bias. For a list of F4K's partner sites, visit www.food4kidscapecod.org/locations.

University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth Episcopal Campus Ministry, Dartmouth

A recent initiative has been the development of a campus chaplaincy at the University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth centered on providing students, faculty and staff an opportunity to experience and embrace an Episcopal expression of progressive Christianity, rooted in Jesus' Way of Love.



in this hands-on experience to raise awareness about the horror of gun violence. The Episcopal Campus Ministry also seeks to influence public policy by advocating justice for all people and has partnered with Arnie's Cupboard, the student-run food pantry on campus, to support students, faculty and staff who are facing economic challenges.

The Episcopal Campus Ministry strives to engage students in social justice and service-oriented opportunities, with the goal of enabling students to love God, love others and become disciples. For example, it is collaborating with Bishops United Against Gun Violence to raise awareness. Bishop Jim Curry, formerly bishop suffragan of Connecticut, has come to campus to offer his "Swords to Plowshares" event. There was an amazing turnout of students, faculty and staff who gathered to participate

Frederick Douglass Unity House, an organization on campus to promote racial equality, to develop programs which help to create an awareness on campus about racial justice. The Episcopal Campus Ministry and Unity House hosted an event called "Faith and Racism," with Bishop Gayle Harris as the guest speaker. It is also working on outreach to the LGBTQ+ community on campus. The Episcopal Campus Ministry has built a

bridge with the on-campus Center for Women, Gender and Human Sexuality so that students, faculty and staff experience the welcoming embrace of The Episcopal Church.

Led by the Rev. Scott Ciosek, the rector of St. Peter's Church, Dartmouth, this new ministry has taken root in promising ways. Initial funding has been provided through a combination of a restricted gift from a generous donor, the Bishops' Annual Appeal and other support. It is also working on outreach to the LGBTQ+ community on campus, and has built a bridge with the on-campus Center for Women, Gender and Human Sexuality so that students, faculty and staff experience the welcoming embrace of The Episcopal Church.



Diocesan Staff Highlight:

The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Th.D.

Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries

"As Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, I so appreciate working with organizations, partnerships and other mission initiatives and multicultural ministries that are springing up in this diocese. I am hoping and looking forward to continuing leading these ministries as we 'soar on wings like eagles' (Isaiah 40:31) together as we take those ministries to a higher level. We hope to start other initiatives like the opening of an African Center."



- Canon Ntagengwa is a certified DOJ accredited representative in the Diocese of Massachusetts. He accompanies dozens of people who are seeking counsel for their immigration journey to the United States.

- On Nov. 12, 2023, Canon Ntagengwa received the Founder's Award from Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) at its annual International Dinner.

- In May 2023 more than 200 people attended the Pan-African Clergy Caucus Conference at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan.

- On Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2023, the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries co-sponsored the Black Churches Leadership Initiative Conference with The Episcopal Church's Office of African Descent Ministries led by the Rev. Canon Ron Byrd. More than 40 lay leaders, rectors and priests-in-charge participated.

- The Ministry of Immigration Partnership hosted the annual diocesan Juneteenth Celebration at St. Mark's Church in Dorchester where more than 100 people gathered to sing, pray, praise and celebrate.

Canon Ntagengwa also shepherds the diocesan staff's Antiracism Working Group and is the staff liaison for the diocesan Racial Justice Commission. As the Diocese of Massachusetts strives to become a more antiracist body, the Racial Justice Commission exists to provide tools, experiences, leadership, accompaniment and, sometimes, challenge to diocesan leaders, congregations and other Episcopal communities so that, together, the people of the diocese can better live out Jesus' prayer to embody God's dream of "on earth as it is in heaven."

Sending Serving Grants

The Diocese of Massachusetts awards Sending Serving Grant funds to support domestic and international programs that enhance the outreach ministries of congregations through new or existing programs. These programs support the vitality of congregations, youth and urban-ethnic-multicultural ministries.

Sending Serving Grants are awarded by each of the 12 deaneries. Deanery assemblies set the criteria and determine awards. Each deanery will have access to \$4,000 in 2024 for Sending Serving Grants.

Combating rural poverty in central Appalachia



Since 2013, St. Paul's Church in Bedford has sent more than 50 youth and 20 adult members to Central Appalachia for a week of home repair and construction with Appalachia Service Project, a Christian ministry based in Tennessee. Poverty in the Central Appalachian region

is double the national average: more than 60,000 homes are substandard, and one in four people lives below the poverty level. The goal is to fulfill ASP's mission of making homes "warmer, safer, and drier," while experiencing life in a culture that most of the parish's youth have never seen. The personal relationships volunteers develop with the families they serve last longer than the sore muscles brought on by construction work, and give young people a broader understanding of poverty and the challenges it brings to individuals and families in our own country. The 2023 trip brought 22 youth and adult chaperones to Guyan Valley, West Virginia, working with three different families to repair roofs, create better living spaces, and improve the structural integrity of their homes.

Collaboration with Diocese of Colombia & Divine Savior

In 2014, Grace Church in Medford began to partner with Divine Savior parish in Bogota, Columbia. As the years have passed, the partnership has led to afterschool programs, an expansion of space to accommodate more children and then older adults,



feeding programs, and most recently a response to extreme need in the San German neighborhood, where extreme poverty is common among families. After Divine Savior began a feeding program in San German, someone gifted the diocese with a small plot of land, which led to the opportunity to build a kitchen /chapel/community center onsite. Such a building will allow local employment and timely meals (which are currently cooked offsite and brought to the people). The growth of the partnership is due in large part to the leadership of both parishes having a mutual vision to lift up the displaced peoples of this area and engaging both congregations in this work. The diocesan deanery grant, when partnered with the funds raised by Grace, helps allow this vision to become a reality.

To give by credit card, use the QR code or go to www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal. Make checks payable to "Bishops' Annual Appeal" and send to the address below.



Contact the Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant, with any questions or to make a gift of securities.

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Thank you for your generous support.



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