

# CASE STUDY

## *Formation and Ethnic Ministries*

### AT A GLANCE

- Training of youth and adult formation leaders to better serve our parishes
- Serving 500+ college students through campus ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas located on Nicholls State University through Colonel Catholics
- Serving the community with formation and evangelization events such as "Theology on Tap"
- Our ethnic ministries include African American, Native American, Vietnamese, and Hispanic Ministries. Each of these ministries are unique to our diocese providing education with culture and spiritually serving a large population within our community

### HISPANIC MINISTRY

The Hispanic Ministry is run by three of our Hispanic Sisters and two Hispanic priests. They are dedicated to serving the spiritual, cultural, and social needs of our five Hispanic communities. This ministry focuses on fostering a welcoming environment for Hispanic Catholics and promoting their active participation in the life of the Church. The ministry emphasizes the importance of cultural heritage and organizes events celebrating Hispanic traditions, festivals, and liturgical practices. This helps to create a sense of belonging and connection within the Church. Through its initiatives, the Hispanic Ministry strengthens the faith of its members and fosters greater inclusivity within the Diocese. It encourages Hispanic Catholics to take active roles in parish life while promoting unity among diverse cultural groups.

### ADULT FORMATION

The Office of Parish Support works with adult formation leaders in our parishes to support and empower them to follow Jesus' call to make disciples of all nations. This is done through an accompaniment-based process, which consists of one-on-one engagement and quarterly formation nights at Lumen Christi open to all those serving in parish ministry leadership positions. Additionally, through our catechist formation and certification program, leaders gain knowledge and skills to share the faith with others.

Through this process of one-on-one engagement, our liaisons become aware of both the parish's charisms and challenges. With this knowledge, liaisons help multiply the effects of those charisms by supporting leaders as they help their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



## COLONEL CATHOLICS CAMPUS MINISTRY

Each year, the diocese supports Colonel Catholics as the colligate campus ministry component of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. The student center is a place where the Catholic faith is lived in radical and vibrant ways. Colonel Catholic campus ministry is grounded in Jesus Christ and His Church. We strive to be very present on Nicholls State Campus through many spiritual, social, and community building activities. We are also committed to bringing the hope of Christ to others. Campus ministry at St. Thomas offers itself as your home away from home.



## AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY

The African American Ministry Office of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is dedicated to *evangelizing, catechizing, educating, informing, and empowering* the African American Catholic community. This ministry aims to celebrate the contributions and gifts of African American Catholics within the diocese. The ministry also works to locate African American Catholics and organizes formation programs aimed at equipping lay leaders and those who minister to, with, for, and among the African American Catholic community for outreach and evangelization. The ministry offers

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is a dynamic series of gatherings aimed at young adults in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. These events blend engaging discussions about faith, spirituality, and contemporary issues in a relaxed, social atmosphere. Theology on Tap has become a vital ministry in the Diocese, addressing the spiritual needs of young adults and inviting them to explore their faith in a modern context. Combining social interaction with theological exploration helps participants grow in their faith while forming lasting connections. Through Theology on Tap, the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux successfully engages young adults, making theology accessible and relevant in today's world, while nurturing a vibrant community of faith.

---

## APPEAL FUNDING

The Bishop's Appeal plays a critical role in supporting our diocesan mission to promote faith and ethnic formation. This year, we aim to raise \$200,000 toward our overall goal of \$1 million. These funds are essential to enhance our programs and reach the diverse communities we serve.

Your support of the Bishop's Appeal is crucial in helping us reach our \$1 million goal. By contributing to this appeal, you are investing in the future of our diocese and ensuring that youth and adult leaders are trained, college students are supported, and diverse cultural ministries thrive. Together, we can create a vibrant faith community that embraces the richness of our diversity and nurtures the spiritual growth of all its members.



### WAYS TO GIVE

Online at  
[htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal](http://htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal)  
Mail checks made payable to:  
**Annual Bishop's Appeal,**  
P.O. Box 505, Schriever, LA 70395

 In pew at a church parish

 Call **985-850-3175** or  
email [mohmer@htdiocese.org](mailto:mohmer@htdiocese.org)



## CASE STUDY

### *Seminarian Education*

#### AT A GLANCE

- Educate our 5 seminarians at Notre Dame Seminary and St. Joseph Seminary
- Educate 3 men in the St. Joseph the Worker House of Formation,
- Average cost to educate is \$45,000 per year per seminarian for 9 years
- Provide Room and Board, tuition, and healthcare if needed

#### AWARENESS + ACCOMPANIMENT

The diocesan Office of Vocations to Priesthood, with the support of our bishop, is the chief promoter of priestly vocational awareness across our diocese. The office serves to build a culture of vocations within our church parishes, schools, and community.

The office offers resources and opportunities for men to discern the diocesan priesthood in our diocese. Our staff accompanies men as they grow in their freedom to discern God's will for their lives and discern the possibility of a vocation to diocesan priesthood.



#### SEMINARIANS

The Diocese supports all of our current **eight seminarians** through their various stages of formation and education. We ensure that all seminarians are well cared for and receive the best education. Our seminarians receive direct support and accompaniment during their priestly formation by frequent visits and assignments at home in the diocese. Funding support through the generous gifts and payers of the Bishop's Appeal is strictly for their tuition, care, and other educational support throughout the year.

#### APPEAL FUNDING

The Bishop's Appeal is vital in our mission to support the education and formation of our seminarians. The Bishop's Appeal is one of the several ways the diocese supports and funds seminarian education. Through your support and prayers, vocations continue to strengthen across our diocese as we are witnessing good and holy men discern their own vocation. **Together, we can cultivate a new generation of leaders who will guide our community with faith and integrity.**



#### WAYS TO GIVE

Online at [htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal](https://htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal)  
Mail checks made payable to:  
**Annual Bishop's Appeal,**  
P.O. Box 505, Schriever, LA 70395

In pew at a church parish

Call **985-850-3175** or  
email [mohmer@htdiocese.org](mailto:mohmer@htdiocese.org)



## CASE STUDY

### *Retired Priests*

#### AT A GLANCE

- Support our beloved 17 retired priests of our diocese with supplemental retirement income
- Funds supplemental health insurance,
- Funds long-term care needs and
- Other required services for them to continue to live in our diocese.

#### SUPPORTING OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is committed to supporting our beloved **17 retired priests**, who have dedicated their lives to serving our community and fostering the faith of countless individuals. To honor their service and ensure they can continue to live with dignity in our diocese, we provide supplemental retirement income that helps meet their basic needs.



Additionally, our support extends to funding supplemental health insurance, which is crucial for their medical care, and covering long-term care needs that may arise as they age. Furthermore, we ensure that other essential services are available to them, allowing these esteemed individuals to maintain their quality of life within the community they have faithfully served. By investing in the well-being of our retired priests, we express our gratitude for their unwavering commitment and strengthen the bonds of our diocesan family.

#### APPEAL FUNDING

Raising a funding goal of \$300,000 towards our overall diocesan goal of \$1 million is essential to ensure the well-being and dignity of our 17 retired priests in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. These dedicated individuals have devoted their lives to serving our community, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the support they need in their retirement years. The funds raised will not only supplement their retirement income but also cover the costs of supplemental health insurance, which is crucial for their medical needs, and address long-term care requirements that may arise as they age. Additionally, these resources will help provide other necessary services, allowing our retired priests to continue living in the community they have faithfully served. By meeting this funding goal, we will honor their legacy and ensure that they can enjoy a secure and dignified retirement, reflecting our gratitude for their lifelong commitment to our diocese.



#### WAYS TO GIVE

Online at  
[htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal](https://htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal)  
Mail checks made payable to:  
**Annual Bishop's Appeal,**  
P.O. Box 505, Schriever, LA 70395

In pew at a church parish

Call **985-850-3175** or  
email [mohmer@htdiocese.org](mailto:mohmer@htdiocese.org)



# CASE STUDY

## *Catholic Schools*

### AT A GLANCE

- Annual Educator Convocation providing professional and spiritual development
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Cohort – Professional Development of future leaders in our schools
- Data Specialist who provides Data Interpretation and Analysis to our schools
- Evaluation of classroom performance, with the use of the Bullseye Platform
- Board Training for Individual School Boards
- Consultative support for administration and development from the Office of Catholic Schools

### QUICK SNAPSHOT

The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux provides assistance, support, and guidance for administrators, faculties, school advisory councils, and parents in order to promote and enhance the educational ministry of the Catholic Church.

- **10 schools**
  - 1 Diocesan K-12 School
  - 2 Diocesan High Schools
  - 7 Parochial Elementary Schools
- **Enrollment**
  - Total: 4,886
  - Elementary: 3,177
  - High School: 1,709
- **Administration, Faculty, and Staff**
  - 495 employees
  - 10:1 teacher-student ratio
- **Cost to Educate**
  - Average Elementary Tuition is \$4,879.69 annually, while the cost to educate one child is approximately \$6,291.50 per student annually
  - Average High School Tuition is \$8,412.50 annually, while the cost to educate one child in high school is estimated to be \$10,864.83 per student annually



## SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS THROUGH THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

The Diocese of Houma–Thibodaux Bishop’s Appeal plays a vital role in supporting Catholic education by supporting and sustaining Educator’s Convocation, a diocesan-wide gathering that marks the opening of each school year. This event brings together more than 500 educators from across the diocese for a shared spiritual and professional learning experience, intentionally designed to begin the academic year grounded in faith. Educator’s Convocation allows our school communities to come together as one diocesan family, to pray, reflect, learn, and recommit to the shared mission of Catholic education before students return to our classrooms.

In addition, the Bishop’s Appeal provides access to a Data Specialist who supports schools through data interpretation and analysis. This role helps school leaders and educators better understand student performance trends, assess program effectiveness, and make informed, data-driven decisions that enhance the learning environment. By supporting schools in using data effectively, the Appeal directly contributes to continuous improvement efforts across the diocese

The Bishop’s Appeal also supports consultative board formation, strengthening school governance, and leadership capacity. Through guidance and structured support, school boards are better equipped to fulfill their roles in strategic planning, financial stewardship, and mission-driven decision-making, ensuring long-term stability and vitality for Catholic schools.

Additionally, the Appeal also supports school improvement through Lumen Accreditation, a Catholic accreditation agency rooted in the mission and identity of Catholic education. Aligning our schools with a Catholic accrediting body ensures that our approach to accountability, continuous improvement, and school culture is evaluated through a faith-centered lens, rather than a purely secular framework. Lumen Accreditation places a strong emphasis on measuring and strengthening the learning environment, including mission integration, leadership, and community life, allowing our schools to grow in ways that are both academically sound and authentically Catholic.

Through these targeted initiatives, the Bishop’s Appeal directly impacts the Office of Catholic Schools by supporting educators, strengthening leadership structures, and enhancing the learning environments in which our students grow. This investment ensures that Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux remain strong, mission-focused, and well-positioned to serve students and families for generations to come.

## CURRENT FUNDING

Bishop Simon Peter has made our Catholic Schools Office and Youth Ministry programs as the top beneficiaries of the Bishop’s Appeal as his heart and vision is centered around the faith formation of our young people. With 25% of the Appeal this year being dedicated to the Office of Catholic Schools the diocese is committed to ensuring that our Catholic schools remain vibrant and effective in providing high-quality education rooted in our faith. The funds raised through the Bishop’s Appeal will directly support a variety of initiatives designed to enhance educational resources, improve infrastructure, and provide professional development for educators.

***By investing in our Catholic schools, we are investing in the future of our youth and the broader community, ensuring that our educational institutions can thrive and fulfill their mission.***



### WAYS TO GIVE

Online at [hdiocese.org/bishopsappeal](http://hdiocese.org/bishopsappeal)  
 Mail checks made payable to:  
**Annual Bishop's Appeal,**  
 P.O. Box 505, Schriever, LA 70395

In pew at a church parish

Call **985-850-3175** or  
 email [mohmer@hdiocese.org](mailto:mohmer@hdiocese.org)



# CASE STUDY

## *Youth Ministry*

### YOUTH MINISTRY VISION

Our diocese stands at a moment of profound opportunity. Across our parishes and schools, we see the spark of faith in our young people—their energy, curiosity, and deep desire to belong. Yet, as Bishop Simon Peter has shared in his pastoral vision, we also recognize the urgent call to nurture this faith more intentionally and to accompany our youth as they discover who they are in Christ.

Bishop Simon Peter is discerning a renewed vision of hope and renewal to invest in our youth and the future of our Church. The diocese wants to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to experience Christ's love deeply, to grow in faith, and to live joyfully as disciples in our world.

### THE VISION

While the full plan for this renewed vision is still taking shape, Bishop Simon Peter's priorities are clear:

- To invest in the spiritual formation of our young people within our Catholic schools and parish youth ministries;
- To ensure that our youth have meaningful opportunities to encounter Christ—through conferences, retreats, mission experiences, service, and prayer;
- To build a support network of trained leaders, catechists, and mentors who can accompany our youth on their journey of faith;
- And to foster unity and collaboration across the diocese so that every parish, every school, and every family can share in a vibrant ministry that helps our youth grow in love of God and one another.





## ABOUT FUNDING

The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is setting an ambitious overall goal of \$1 million for the Bishop's Appeal, with a specific target of \$150,000 dedicated to youth formation. This investment is crucial for the spiritual development of our young people within our Catholic schools and parish youth ministries. By allocating resources towards this goal, we can create meaningful opportunities for our youth to encounter Christ through various experiences such as conferences, retreats, missions, service projects, and prayer.

Additionally, this funding will help us build a robust support network of trained leaders, catechists, and mentors who can guide and accompany our youth on their faith journeys. It is also essential for fostering unity and collaboration across the diocese, ensuring that every parish, school, and family can participate in a vibrant ministry that nurtures our youth's love for God and one another. This targeted financial goal is not just about raising funds; it is about investing in the future of our church and empowering the next generation to live out their faith fully.

This year's Bishop's Appeal is dedicated to answering that call. Guided by our theme, *"In God Alone We Grow in Love,"* Bishop Simon Peter invites the faithful of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux to join him in re-envisioning youth ministry from a diocesan perspective—one that is rooted in Christ, strengthened by community, and alive in the Spirit. Your prayers and your gifts to the Bishop's Appeal this year will help lay the foundation for a stronger, more connected, and Christ-centered youth ministry across our diocese. Together, we will ensure that every young person in our diocese has the opportunity to experience Christ's love deeply, to grow in faith, and to live joyfully as disciples in our world.

*In God alone, our hearts are rooted.*

*In God alone, our love grows.*

*In God alone, we will build the future—one young heart at a time*



### WAYS TO GIVE



Online at  
[htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal](https://htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal)



Mail checks made payable to:  
**Annual Bishop's Appeal,**  
P.O. Box 505, Schriever, LA 70395



In pew at a church parish



Call **985-850-3175** or  
email [mohmer@htdiocese.org](mailto:mohmer@htdiocese.org)

