

SNAP-SHOT

Through the Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA), the People of God in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support over 50 ministries, programs and services to thousands across our 5 county area.

Our appeal is truly an opportunity for each and every Catholic household to help further the mission of the Church, to become a part of the everyday miracles we experience through sharing our gifts as good stewards. *Let's take a closer look at some of the good works underway in the...*

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation is an office within the Department of Evangelization and Lifelong Faith Formation, which seeks to support local parish efforts to evangelize the people of God and nourish the formation of the Church through all ages and phases of life. In our work within all parishes of the Diocese, we:

- strive to **encounter** Jesus in our lives through Word and Sacrament and foster this encounter in the lives of children, youth and adults
- work to **lead** people to transformation in Christ and an integration of their Roman Catholic faith with their life experiences
- **serve** those who live and minister with and for people of faith in our local and diocesan communities

The functions of the diocesan Faith Formation staff include:

- *Faith formation for leadership development and administration* provides ongoing education and support to parish leadership including religious education coordinators in our Catholic schools, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults coordinators and parish directors of faith formation; as well as curriculum development for K-8, high school parish/school, safe environment education programs, family life and human sexuality, which directly impacts the 17,127 parish faith formation and 15,486 Catholic school students in K-12.
- *Personnel support* in relation to the hiring process, orientation, supervision/evaluation, professional development, and recognition of parish and Catholic school faith formation leaders. This includes all aspects from prospective employee identification to vetting, which assists parishes and schools in securing the most qualified and most appropriate candidates for religious formation staff positions.
- *Catechist formation and continuing education* is provided for certified catechists who serve children, youth and adults and all Catholic school teachers/staff members. The program is concerned with the faith development of the catechist as well as the doctrinal content of the faith and sound, age appropriate and culturally sensitive methodology. It consists of 3 levels with continuing growth (education) hours required at all levels: Basic, Advanced and Master catechist, and the Basic Level is available in both English and Spanish. The program also provides/renders Florida Teacher Certification Renewal Points, and celebrates 2,000-3,000 active participants throughout the Diocese with over 7,600 graduates to date.



This information has been provided by the Diocesan Office of Stewardship & Development. To learn more about ministries, services and programs funded by the Annual Pastoral Appeal, visit dosp.org.

