

Catholic Strong

The Campaign for the Catholic Community of South Jersey

The Catholic history of South Jersey began when a fervent missionary, Father Theodore Schneider, left the comfort of Old Saint Joseph Church in Philadelphia to plant the seeds of faith in missionary soil. The first South Jersey Catholic mission was established in 1740 for four families in Salem County who worked at the glassworks and lived nearby. Jesuits, Redemptorists, Augustinians, and diocesan clergy from Philadelphia soon followed, traveling across South Jersey on foot or horseback, crossing streams, rivers, and forests with only a sack slung over their shoulder, to bring the Catholic message to these New World colonists.

It took another 90 years before the first church was built in Pleasant Mills, Atlantic County and 19 more before the first parish was established in Gloucester City. Nearly 200 years after Father Schneider crossed into South Jersey, the Diocese of Camden was established in 1937 for the people of the six southernmost counties of New Jersey, a region spanning almost 2,700 square miles.

The Diocese of Camden has changed tremendously over the course of its 80 years in service to the people of South Jersey. Adjusting to changes affecting the Catholic Church throughout the Northeastern United States, the diocese undertook an extensive parish restructuring process in 2008 in an effort to consolidate resources and create more dynamic parish communities.

In recent years, Bishop Sullivan has actively engaged the lay faithful and clergy in promoting the wellbeing of our parishes and the diocese. By frequently visiting parishes, schools, and other institutions, he has made clear his vision of supporting his priests, increasing priestly vocations, encouraging youth and young adult formation, and providing a quality religious education, especially through our Catholic Schools.

Now, midway through the second decade of the 21st century, and almost 30 years removed from the last campaign of its kind, it is time for this generation of Catholics to make their mark on the history of the diocese. The Campaign for the Catholic Community of South Jersey, titled Catholic Strong, is seeking to secure a minimum of \$50 million, which will primarily benefit our local parishes. Seventy percent of the funds raised through this effort will be allocated for parish needs as determined locally and 30 percent will fund the diocese's coordination and support of various ministries.

STRONG PARISHES - \$35 Million

The parish is the heart of the Church and the center of Catholic life. It is there that we are formed in the faith and encounter the mercy and love of God through the sacraments and the community. That is why the primary goal of this campaign is to provide the necessary resources that will strengthen our parishes and their ministries. Seventy percent of the funds raised at each parish will remain at that parish in order to address local needs. These funds will provide each parish the ability to grow ministries, increase evangelization efforts, complete capital improvements, reduce debt, and focus on other critical concerns. Because each parish is unique, parishes will determine for themselves how best to utilize their share of the funds raised. Parishioners are encouraged to take an active part in the campaign at the local level and fully support the mission of their parish.

STRONG SCHOOLS - \$8 Million

This campaign will provide South Jersey Catholic Schools with the necessary funding to target key areas of the 2015 Bishop's Commission on Catholic Schools report, Forming Minds and Hearts in Grace: A Plan for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of

Camden, which are not able to be addressed through our current operational funds. These areas include: faculty and staff development, especially in the area of catechesis; curriculum expansion and innovation; and more substantial methods for engaging youth and young adults.

STRONG SERVICE - \$4 Million

While the Diocese of Camden provides care to individuals and families in need across the six counties of South Jersey there are always new needs that form. From this campaign, specific funding will go to new addiction healing services programs with special emphasis on combating the opioid crisis, broader efforts to provide assistance to the poor, enhanced healthcare outreach for individuals and families, and greater legal support services for immigrants and the marginalized.

STRONG FAITH - \$3 Million

Beginning with the Apostles, it has been the responsibility of the faithful to go beyond the church walls to share their faith in the person of Jesus Christ. This campaign will focus on strengthening our evangelization efforts by:

- Promoting the public image of the Catholic Church in South Jersey through traditional and newer media to showcase the vitality of our parishes and ministries from the Jersey Shore to the Delaware River.
- Welcoming new members, welcoming back inactive members, and encouraging all those who seek Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church to become missionary disciples to all corners of our communities.
- Increasing educational opportunities for parish ministers and staff to help our parishes embrace the varied expressions of the Catholic faith in language, culture, and practice, as well as their own professional and faith formation.

CATHOLIC STRONG PHASES

Pilot Phase – Fall 2017

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Marmora
St. John Neumann, N. Cape May
Holy Family, Sewell
St. Rose of Lima, Haddon Heights
Incarnation, Mantua
St. Mary, Gloucester City

Phase 1 – Winter 2018

Christ the Good Shepherd, Vineland
Divine Mercy, Vineland
Holy Eucharist, Cherry Hill
Infant Jesus Parish, Woodbury Heights
Most Precious Blood, W. Collingswood
Our Lady of Hope, Blackwood
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Galloway
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Newfield
Our Lady of the Lakes, Collings Lakes
Saints Peter and Paul, Turnersville
St. Andrew the Apostle, Gibbsboro
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Absecon
St. Gabriel the Archangel, Carneys Point
St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Northfield
St. Joseph the Worker, Haddon Twp
St. Mary, Cherry Hill
St. Michael the Archangel, Clayton
St. Padre Pio, Vineland
St. Simon Stock, Berlin
St. Teresa of Calcutta, Collingswood
St. Thomas More, Cherry Hill

Phase 1.5 – Spring 2018

St. Brendan the Navigator, Avalon
St. Clare of Assisi, Swedesboro
St. Damien, Ocean City
Holy Trinity, Margate
Notre Dame de la Mer, North Wildwood
St. Monica, Atlantic City
St. Thomas the Apostle, Brigantine

Phase 2 – late summer 2018

All Saints, Millville
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Camden
Christ Our Light, Cherry Hill
Christ the King, Haddonfield
Christ the Redeemer, Atco
Holy Angels, Woodbury
Holy Child, Runnemede
Holy Cross, Bridgeton
Holy Spirit, Mullica Hill
Mary, Mother of Mercy, Glassboro
Mary, Queen of All Saints, Pennsauken
Mater Ecclesiae Chapel, Berlin
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lindenwold
Our Lady of Peace, Williamstown
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cape May
Our Lady of Sorrows, Linwood
Our Lady of the Angels, Cape May Court House
Sacred Heart, Camden
St. Bridget, Glassboro
St. Charles Borromeo, Sicklerville
St. Joachim, Bellmawr
St. Joseph, Somers Point
St. Joseph, Sea Isle City
St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral, Camden
St. Katharine Drexel, Egg Harbor Twp
St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, Hammonton
St. Peter, Merchantville
St. Stephen, Pennsauken
St. Vincent de Paul, Mays Landing
St. Andrew Kim, Absecon
St. Yi Yun II John, Cherry Hill



BUILDING OUR CHURCH NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE



The House of Charity provides the day-to-day operational income that supports the pastoral, charitable and social ministries of the Diocese, including: Catholic Charities, support for seminarian education and housing for retired priests, support for Vitality Catholic Healthcare Services, support for Catholic education, as well as support for our various pastoral ministries.

The House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal supports people to people ministries that serve the South Jersey Community today. In service, we encounter those in need where they are, accompany them on their journey and bring them to a place of hope.

Monies that are raised in this fiscal year are expended next fiscal year. Without the House of Charity, the Diocese could not fulfill the mission that Christ gave us to care for His people.



Of the funds raised through the Catholic Strong campaign, 70% will remain at the parish. There is no single case statement because each parish has been asked to identify their unique needs and way they will put their dollars to use. These needs could include updates to physical plant needs, new or expanded youth and pastoral ministries, and the hiring of staff to expand the effectiveness of parishes. Whatever the individual case, each parish has had the opportunity to identify their own needs and how they would like to spend the dollars raised to meet those needs.

At the same time, 30% of the dollars raised will be returned to the Diocese for use in creating new religious education, addiction support, and other ministries that cannot be supported by current funding sources. In addition, new evangelization efforts will be established to reach out to non-Catholics, people living on the fringes of our society, and to those who have left the faith.

CATHOLIC STRONG PRAYER

Father,

We are grateful for the gift of our church and the blessings of its parishes, schools and ministries.

Please watch over us as we embark on this campaign, Catholic Strong, which will fortify these gifts for the benefit of the entire South Jersey community.

Let this be an opportunity to celebrate our tradition of church teaching by going outward, strengthening our future and becoming Missionary Disciples of your Son,

Jesus Christ, to the people of Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties.

We pray that you watch over us and guide us as we invigorate our parishes and leadership, raise our public image, embrace our diversity, and continue to serve Your mission on Earth.

Father, bless our campaign and send forth your Holy Spirit so that we will be for years to come Catholic Strong.
Amen

CamdenDiocese.org/CatholicStrong