LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Each year this Annual Report is presented to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Mobile. It provides a brief summary of the ministries of the Archdiocese: pastoral, educational, charitable, and financial.

This annual report reflects the vitality of this part of the People of God which we call the Archdiocese of Mobile. Because of our baptism, we are called by God to be concerned about our brothers and sisters throughout the world, but in a special way we are called to build up the Kingdom of God within this special place — the 28 counties of southern Alabama, our home.

We are all aware that these are very different and challenging times for our Church, our nation, and our world. In ways we would have never anticipated, we have sought to live our faith in these days of contagion. I extend to all of you my deepest gratitude for your efforts to keep the flame of faith burning brightly in these difficult times. I am particularly impressed with the admirable fashion in which many of you have made your homes and religious houses the domestic church through faith-filled family and personal activities.

I wish to also express my thanks to our wonderful priests. Throughout these weeks when there have not been public Masses out of concern for the life and health of neighbor, our priests have continued the sacramental and worship life of the Church. Baptisms and Confirmations have been celebrated. Confessions have been heard. Weddings have been officiated. The sick have been anointed. The dead have been buried. The distraught have been counseled. And Masses have been celebrated, although privately enjoyed the number of priests, some of whom are my age and not tech savvy, who have used technology to publicize their parish Masses. Thanks to all who have made this possible.

Allow me also to thank those who serve in archdiocesan-wide ministries who have stepped up to face the challenges with talented determination. The poor are being helped with utilities and rent, the hungry are being fed, the poor receive clothing, the troubled are being counseled, and babies are being adopted. Distance learning in our Catholic schools is being provided by our excellent teachers so that our students will not lag behind in their education despite classrooms being closed. Those who serve in financial ministries have been invaluable in helping our ministries and parishes meet financial obligations which do not go away even in times of pandemic.

Finally, I thank you, the wonderful people in the Archdiocese of Mobile. All of us have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Some of you are experiencing very trying times with loss of loved ones, illnesses, and financial struggles. Thank you for your prayers, your support of your parishes, and your understanding. I give thanks to God for you and I pray for you daily. This report reflects the ministry of many, but it also reflects your support of the Church. All of this is only possible because of you. I pray God will bless and protect each of you.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Thomas J. Rodi
Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi
Archbishop of Mobile

ANNUAL REPORT
Archdiocese of Mobile

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hundreds of college students from Auburn, Troy, South Alabama, Spring Hill College and Coastal Alabama Community College attended the Fellowship of Catholic University Students’ SEEK-2019 conference in Indianapolis in January.
- About 600 pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Mobile attended the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Students from archdiocesan schools were also among those who participated in the March for Life in downtown Mobile.
- The Catholic Charities Appeal surpassed its goal of $4.5 million to fund more than 30 charitable ministries throughout the Archdiocese of Mobile.
- The annual Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Conference was held in Orange Beach on the weekend of Feb. 22-24 with about 375 high school age Catholic youth in attendance.
- The Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati student chapel at Auburn University was blessed and dedicated.
- An Archdiocese of Mobile-sponsored Living Way of the Cross procession was held in downtown Mobile on Good Friday. Hundreds participated in the procession.
- More than 300 new Catholics were welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in parishes across the archdiocese.
- Archdiocese of Mobile Catholic Schools Superintendent Gwen Byrd was among the recipients of the National Catholic Educational Association’s Learn. Lead. Proclaim. Award, which recognizes achievements on behalf of Catholic school education.
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School student and Holy Spirit Catholic Church parishioner Isabella Cochran won the annual Jimmy Hitchcock Award, which recognizes Christian leadership and athletic success.
- St. Michael Catholic High School celebrated its first graduation as 46 seniors made up the school’s first graduating class. Caroline Zitnik was the first valedictorian.
- Fr. Patrick Gilbreath was ordained to the priesthood and Gabriel Mills, Connor Plessala and Peyton Plessala were ordained transitional deacons.
- Archbishop Rodi celebrated the Rite of Candidacy as 19 men were installed as permanent deaconate candidates.
- Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Parish in Spanish Fort celebrated its first anniversary and unveiled building plans for permanent parish facilities.
- The Little Sisters of the Poor celebrated the 150th anniversary of their arrival in the U.S. They have served in Mobile since 1901.
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School’s new 33,000-square-foot athletic complex opened.
- Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcek were the featured speakers at the Archdiocese of Mobile’s “One Faith One Family” conference in Daphne.
- The Seminarian Summer Gala at Corpus Christi Parish raised nearly $100,000 for seminarian education.
- The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary in Marbury celebrated the 75th anniversary of their foundation.
- Ground was broken on a new church at St. Ignatius Parish, Mobile.
- Archbishop Rodi blessed new columbariums at Catholic Cemetery of Mobile and St. Margaret Cemetery in Montgomery.
- Deacon John Archer was named a finalist for Catholic Extension’s Lumen Christi award. He received $10,000 to support the archdiocese’s maritime ministry.
- Archbishop Rodi awarded the Christ the King Medal to nominated volunteers from parishes throughout the archdiocese at the annual Feast of Christ the King Procession and Mass.
- The Toy Bowl raised more than $72,000 to help support the many programs of the Catholic Youth Organization in Mobile.
- Catholic Social Services of Baldwin County in Robertsdale was expanded and renovated.
- Archbishop Rodi blessed the Edmundite Missions’ new community and recreation center in Selma.
- Archbishop Rodi visited the Vatican during a weekend “ad limina” visit.
- The Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St. Ignatius Parish in Mobile opened for perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

QUICK STATS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Population</td>
<td>87,912</td>
<td>87,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students in Catholic Schools</td>
<td>7,097</td>
<td>6,888</td>
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<td>Students in Religious Education classes</td>
<td>2,565</td>
<td>4,062</td>
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<td>Priests resident in the archdiocese</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>Seminarians</td>
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<td>21</td>
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SACRAMENTS

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>1,095</td>
<td>1,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Baptisms</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received into Full Communion</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>237</td>
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<td>First Eucharist</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td>1,184</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmations</td>
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<td>Marriages</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Background checks for Child Protection Program | 1,559 | 1,170 |
Total number of background checks since 2002 | 26,322 | 27,492 |
The Office for the Protection of Minors and Adults (OPMA), formerly the Office of Child Protection, had a busy year.

The OPMA website was updated and is using a new database provider, CMGConnect. This new platform allows clergy, employees and adult volunteers to complete their required annual retraining by watching videos online. The office still requires live initial trainings for all new participants.

In October, religious education and Catholic school children from prekindergarten through 12th grades were trained with a Safe Environments program specific to their grade level. In November, OPMA had an onsite audit by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and was found compliant with all articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Here are a few of OPMA's 2019 activities by the numbers:

- 200 middle school youth participated in a one-day "Unplug" retreat.
- 375 teens grew in faith at ACYC 2019.
- 600 visited Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life.
- The inaugural "Camino del Matrimonio" marriage preparation training was implemented.
- 1,170 background checks were run on employees and volunteers.
- 8,383 children/adolescents were trained through school and religious education programs.
- 10,815 employees and adult volunteers completed their annual retraining.
- 8,383 donors gave $4,868,178.95, exceeding the $4.5 million goal.
- In addition to their many charitable and religious works throughout 2019.

OPMA is dedicated to the protection of all the people in the archdiocese and to all who serve the mission of the Catholic Church within its ministries. OPMA appreciates everyone's commitment to the prevention of abuse and the willingness of all to submit to background checks and trainings.

It is this commitment that will provide a safe environment for those participating in Archdiocesan activities and ministries.

**Office for the Protection of Minors and Adults**
Director Ginger Koppersmith

**Catholic Education**
Executive Director
Gwendolyn Byrd
Office of Catholic Schools
- Gwendolyn P. Byrd, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Director of Catholic Education, received the NCEA’s “Learn. Lead. Proclaim!” Award at its national conference.
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School dedicated a new 33,000-square-foot athletic facility.
- The first graduating class of St. Michael Catholic High School, Class of 2019, had 46 graduates.
- Three new principals were welcomed: Erica Hader, St. Michael Catholic Pingree and Kindergarten; Mary Florian, St. Joseph Catholic School; and Dr. Martha Petteway, Resurrection Catholic School.

**Office for Evangelization and Family Life**
- More than 400 attended the “One Faith One Family” conference Aug. 2-3.
- 36 mentor couples were trained to support engaged couples, seven priests and deacons trained to administer the FOCCUS inventory.
- A new Catechetical Leader Orientation was developed and implemented.
- Monthly “Be Prepared” apologetics sessions were presented at five parishes.

**Office of Hispanic Ministry**
- The inaugural “Camino del Matrimonio” marriage preparation retreat was held at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Enterprise.
- A provincial V Encuentro encounter on Oct. 12 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Mobile, included delegations from all four dioceses in Alabama and Mississippi.
- Celebrations were held to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**
- 600 visited Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life.
- 375 teens grew in faith at ACYC 2019.
- 200 middle school youth participated in a one-day “Unasked” ACYC 3.
- More than 50 teens experienced Christian community in peer-led Search Retreats.

**Catholic Social Services**
Executive Director
Marilyn King
- Catholic Social Services offices in Baldwin, Clarke, Houston, Mobile and Montgomery counties provided services in 2019 to more than 25,000 unduplicated clients, with many seen multiple times.
- CSS Robertsdale was expanded to include a new To Be Options for Women office, along with additional space for the retail shop and storage.
- CSS Montgomery staff served all year as members of the Funding Table, responsible for providing financial assistance for victims of the Lee County tornado. Financial assistance was provided to help rebuild the homes of 17 families.
- Extended Family for Kids, a seven-session series for children who have an incarcerated parent or family member, served 74 children in seven public schools as well as four Catholic schools.
- The first ongoing Backpack Buddies Program in a Dothan City School was established by CSS to provide breakfast, lunch and snack food for children whose families experience food insecurity on weekends and during holiday periods.
- CSS nonmedical senior ministries, St. Margaret’s in Montgomery and St. Teresa of Calcutta in Mobile, provided case work, transportation and food to 274 senior adults, making 2,197 home visits.
- 564 parent and parenting clients were provided pregnancy testing, counseling and parenting education services through To Be Choices for Women in Mobile and To Be Options for Women in Robertsdale.
- Home Repair Services, including materials and labor, were provided for 18 elderly head of household families through CSS Mobile.
- More than 2,000 backpack bags were distributed by CSS Robertsdale to students in eight elementary schools.

**Office for Development**
Executive Director
Shannon Roh
Development & Stewardship
- Launched the Generations of Faith Endowing our Future with Hope archdiocesan endowment campaign in nine pilot parishes with amazing results as all exceeded their goals.
- Supported the Bane Club by processing 5,061 gifts for $397,958.18.
- The second annual Seminarian Summer Gala at Corpus Christi Parish raised more than $100,000 for seminarian formation.
- 397 participated in Giving Tuesday, donating more than $104,000 to our parishes, schools and ministries.
- 2019 Catholic Charities Appeal
- The 88th annual Catholic Charities Appeal was launched in January to assist more than 30 archdiocesan Catholic ministries.
- The theme was inspired by St. Matthew’s gospel: “Am I in you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
- 19,383 donors gave $4,686,178.05, exceeding the $4.5 million goal.
- 32 percent of Catholic Charities donations fund social service ministries: Social Service Centers providing adoption services, aid to the poor, emergency assistance, family counseling, legal immigration assistance in Baldwin, Clark, Dothan, Mobile, and Montgomery, plus Orange Charitable Pharmacy, City of St. Jude, Edmondite Missions and St. John’s XXIII Center.
- 27 percent funds Catholic education/youth ministry programs: Campus Ministry, Fellowship of Catholic University Students, Youth Ministry, Evangelization & Family Life, Tuition Assistance, Office of Catholic Schools and Religious Education.
- 12 percent funds outreach ministries: Arcangel Radio, Hispanic Ministry, Maritime Ministry, Mass for the Homebound, Prison Ministry, St. Mary’s Home and Metropolitan Tribunal.
- 6 percent funds ministries for the aging/disabled: Deaf Ministry, Disabled Apostolate, Hospital Ministry, Little Sisters of the Poor.
- 6 percent funds Crisis Pregnancy ministries: 28 COPE, Mary’s Haven, To Be, and Wiegrose Emergency Pregnancy Services.

**Chancellor**
Deacon
Ronnie Hathorne
- Nineteen aspirants were called to their first year of Candidacy in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program during a May 19 Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Mobile.
- The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) met in Montgomery in October for its 84th annual convention.
- The fourth annual National Black Catholic History Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Mobile, on Nov. 16.
- The Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Peter Claver participated as Honor Guards for the annual Christ the King Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Mobile, in addition to their many charitable and religious works throughout 2019.
- The Apostleship of the Sea, the Catholic Maritime Ministry of Mobile, visited almost 500 ships, transported more than 1,500 seafarers and celebrated 20 onboard Masses. The Christmas program distributed more than 300 gift bags and T-shirts to seafarers on 14 vessels.
- Deacon John Archer was named a finalist for the Catholic Extension Lumen Christi Award for his work with the Apostleship of the Sea, receiving a $10,000 grant for the ministry.

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fr. Lito Capeding, chaplain for the Catholic Maritime Ministry of Mobile, celebrated Mass Oct. 5 at the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Mobile. Launched the Generations of Faith Endowing our Future with Hope archdiocesan endowment campaign in nine pilot parishes with amazing results as all exceeded their goals.

**St. Michael Catholic High School**
- Celebrated its 94th year.
- St. Michael Catholic High School celebrated its first graduation May 16.
General Fund Financial Report
Executive Director for Financial Services
Michele Manry

These are the financial results for the General Fund of the Archdiocese of Mobile for the years ended June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018. The General Fund includes most of those offices that provide administrative and other support services to Catholic parishes, schools and ministries in the Archdiocese. It does not include Catholic Charities, the Sick and Retired Priest Fund, Health Insurance or Property and Liability Insurance Funds, or the Catholic Foundation.

The primary sources of funding for the General Fund is cathedraticum (10% of parish collections and other income – one of the lowest percentage among dioceses in the United States) and contributions in support of seminary education. Expenditures, except for seminarian education, are reported as net amounts. For example, the expenditure listed for The Catholic Week is net of advertising and subscription income.

The General Fund’s revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately $300,000 in each of the past two years. There are two main reasons why.

The first is an increase in contributions to seminarian education thanks to the Seminarian Gala and large increases in the Burse Club/Support Our Seminarians campaign.

The second is better cost control and budgeting in the offices themselves in recent years.

One expenditure total in particular needs explanation – a $300,000 increase in Charitable Contributions from 2018 to 2019. The General Fund gave $300,000 toward the purchase of property for Catholic Social Services.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Michele Manry, Executive Director for Financial Services, if you have any questions about this report.

Catholic Charities Appeal Financial Report
Executive Director for Financial Services
Michele Manry

At right are the financial results for the Catholic Charities Appeal of the Archdiocese of Mobile for the years ended June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018. The Catholic Charities Appeal supports more than 30 Catholic ministries throughout southern and central Alabama.

The budgeted allocations for the various ministries are based on the amount pledged each year. Because the Appeal pledge totals have not changed in recent years, the budgeted allocations remained basically the same in fiscal years 2018 and 2019. Capital and Building Projects in 2019 included $200,000 for purchase of property for St. Mary Parish, Opelika and $100,000 for capital improvements at St. Mary’s Home in Mobile.

Over the years, the Catholic Charities Appeal has traditionally set aside unused allocations, bequests and other gifts over several years to fund major projects: capital improvements at the Little Sisters of the Poor in the 1970’s, construction of the Auburn Catholic Student Center in the 1980’s, and construction of the Sacred Heart Catholic Student Center at the University of South Alabama in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s. In fiscal year 2019, the Appeal used some of the funds set aside over recent years in the Catholic Foundation to pay longstanding debts for a number of struggling mission parishes, schools and ministries. Once they had established a realistic financial plan going forward, it was felt appropriate to eliminate their past debts. Those payments are included in the category Other Parish/School/Ministry Support.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Michele Manry, Executive Director for Financial Services, if you have any questions about this report.