



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

My dear friends in Christ,

Our theme for the 2017 Diocesan Services Funds (DSF) is: *Go Make Disciples!* This is part of the Great Commission, given by Jesus Christ to his disciples at the end of the Gospel of Matthew. After his death and resurrection, Jesus appears to them at “the mountain to which [he] had ordered them”, and there, charges them to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the nations. They, who have been with him, were nourished by his teachings, and were witnesses to his public ministry. Now they are called to be agents of the mercies of God to others.

This charge to *Go Make Disciples* is equally relevant for all of us today. As disciples of Christ, we are to be conduits for God’s loving mercy to others. The DSF is a vital means of responding to Christ’s invitation. It provides critical support and sustenance for over 60 Programs, which benefit many in this local Church. One important beneficiary of the DSF is Camp Kappe. Through DSF we are able to provide a path for many people to continue their growth in discipleship. At Camp Kappe they are provided with a serene atmosphere for prayer and retreat. Camp Kappe is also home to our Environmental Education School, an important learning center of opportunities for the young to care for our common home.

Equally benefiting from the DSF is the Special Youth Services, through which we are able to mentor our at-risk youth and those in juvenile detention, providing them with pastoral counseling, Bible studies and catechesis. Your DSF support allows staff, seminarians, diaconate candidates and volunteers to reach out to youth who then become disciples to others.

Making disciples for Christ entails inviting others to the community of God’s people. Through the Office of Vocations, another important beneficiary of DSF, we are able to accompany those seeking to follow Christ more closely as a priest or as a religious, and then go out to make disciples of others.

I thank you for your gracious commitment in support of the Diocesan Services Fund. With gratitude to God for your faithful discipleship and praying God’s abundant blessings upon you, I am

Your faithful Shepherd,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston