

# ANNUAL REPORT



## 2024

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*"I came so they might have life and  
have it more abundantly."  
John 10:10*

## Mission Statement

We serve to enhance the quality and promote the dignity of life for the elderly, persons with disabilities and their families throughout the Diocese of Camden through programs and services that address the health and well-being of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in our Catholic values, we deliver these services freely and compassionately as the Gospel directs us, and we will care for and assist all people in need, regardless of their religious affiliation.



### Dear Friends,

During my time in the Diocese of Camden—first as Coadjutor Bishop and now as the Ninth Bishop—I have been deeply impressed by the dedicated ministry of VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services. I am grateful for its unwavering commitment to the well-being of our brothers and sisters throughout South Jersey. This ministry is a powerful expression of our diocesan mission to serve all, especially our most vulnerable populations of the elderly and those with disabilities, with compassion and dignity.

I offer heartfelt thanks to the devoted staff and volunteers of VITALity, and to our parishes and community partners for their prayerful support and generosity. I look forward to witnessing the continued growth of current and future ministries.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Most Reverend Joseph A. Williams, D.D.**  
**Bishop of Camden**

## Welcome!

Over the past nine years, VITALity has grown from a vision into a trusted network of support for those navigating the challenges of aging, illness, and disability.

As we reflect on 2024, I extend heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Your faith, time, and generosity have made it possible for us to continue expanding our programs and reaching those most in need with dignity, respect, and love.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope and excitement for VITALity's future. Our goal is to grow our outreach, deepen our impact, and ensure that every individual we serve experiences not only quality care, but a true sense of belonging and peace.

May this annual report inspire you with stories of faith in action and the enduring power of love and service.

With gratitude,  
**Nicole Keefer**  
**Executive Director**  
**VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services**



# VITALity Touches Lives

## Hospital Chaplaincy

Hospital Chaplaincy continues to offer emotional and spiritual support to Catholic patients and their families in 17 healthcare facilities across South Jersey. Our team of 19 Priest and Associate Chaplains visited an average of 4,900 individuals each month, offering Holy Communion and a compassionate presence for families and healthcare staff alike.

- 58,573 Patient Encounters
- 6,008 Staff & Family Visits
- 21,906 Eucharist Shared
- 3,638 Sacrament of the Sick Anointings
- 2 Baptisms



## Care Coordination

Care Coordination touched thousands of lives this past year, with over 800 requests from seniors, persons with disabilities and caregivers seeking essential services. They conducted 3,102 phone consultations and home visits resulting in 2,678 valuable medical and community services.



### TOP 5 Services Arranged

- Insurance Assistance
- Housing / Assisted Living / Nursing Home
- Home Health Aid / Home Help Services
- Food / Meals on Wheels
- Coordinate Medical Care



## Parish Nursing

Parish Nursing offers health education, advocacy, and a healing presence through parish-based programs across the diocese. They bridge the gap between medical care and spiritual support in our faith communities.

- 33 Active Ministries
- 25 Parish Nurses attended annual retreat
- Served more than 15,000 parishioners in local parishes and communities
- Collaborated closely with VITALity **Mercy Teams and Cancer Care Ministries** to provide resources and support. These lay ministries embody the helping hands of Jesus Christ by offering rides to Mass or medical appointments and delivering meals during times of illness or need. To date, they have assisted thousands of individuals in the diocesan community.

## Ministry with the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities

Ministry with the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities continues to promote full inclusion in parish and community life for all. Five parishes host regular Inclusion Masses offering sensory-friendly liturgies to make all feel welcome and accepted. With support from the Father John Foundation for the Handicap and the Poor Grant, the ministry was able to host the following events in 2024:

- 1st Deaf Adult Faith Formation Retreat
- 40th Anniversary Celebration for a founding Deaf Ministry member allowing over 200 people to celebrate this individual's dedication to their faith and ministry
- Expanded Autism Acceptance Programming



## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry continues to offer one-on-one, confidential Christian care to those facing life's most difficult challenges—including grief, illness, divorce, and loneliness. Grounded in compassion and prayer, this lay-led ministry extends the pastoral care of the Church by walking alongside individuals with empathy and faith. Embodying hope, offering comfort and connection through Christ-centered presence and support, serving in:

- 15 Parish Ministries
- Over 250 Trained Ministers



## Parish-Based Senior Ministry and Social Day Centers

**Senior Social Day Centers** continued to flourish, welcoming over 200 older adults weekly for friendship, movement, learning, and spiritual enrichment. With programs like cardio drumming, chair yoga, and faith-based workshops, seniors stayed active in mind, body, and spirit.

Major events for seniors and their families continue to be celebrated, including:

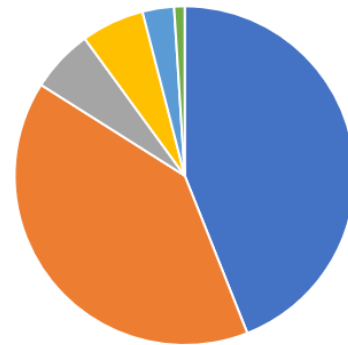
- Annual Way of St. James Pilgrimage: A day of prayer, exercise, Mass and fellowship
- Annual Centenarian and Nonagenarian Mass honoring those age 90 to 103 years

### Our Life to the Fullest Membership Program:

- Touched the lives of over 3,100 seniors connecting them to valuable resources and newsletters
- Helped combat senior isolation launching **Calls Of Joy** in December with weekly uplifting phone calls



## VITALity Services (as Percent of Total Budget)



■ Care Coordination and Help Line.....	<b>44%</b>
■ Hospital Chaplaincy.....	<b>40%</b>
■ Parish Nursing.....	<b>6%</b>
■ Parish Senior Programs and Day Centers.....	<b>6%</b>
■ Ministry with the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities.....	<b>3%</b>
■ Stephen Ministry.....	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>100%</b>

## VITALity Annual Budget Funding Sources

Diocese of Camden Healthcare Foundation.....	<b>\$1,992,797</b>
South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal.....	<b>\$273,860</b>
Diocesan Housing Nursing Services Stipends.....	<b>\$361,04</b>
Other Grants and Income Sources.....	<b>\$172,397</b>
<b>Total VITALity Annual Budget Funding.....</b>	<b>\$2,800,100</b>

