

# BUILDING THE KINGDOM

Highlighting your Annual Appeal giving at work



## My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Fall is one of my favorite times of year, and there is nothing that says “Fall” like sitting by a fire. Through the miracle of God’s creation, the raw material of firewood is transformed into light and heat.

Our gifts of charity work much in the same way. God uses the raw material of our generosity to spread the light of the Gospel and the warmth of His mercy. This is the great mystery and joy of our lives as baptized daughters and sons of Christ.

Through your participation in the Annual Appeal, the fire of God’s love is able to burn bright within our archdiocese. Though your gift may not be seen, the warmth and light that emanate from your gift is certainly felt within the communities we serve.

On behalf of our archdiocesan ministries, I thank you for your generosity to the Annual Appeal and for all that you do lift up our local Church in prayer and service. May you feel the light and warmth of God’s infinite love now and always.

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” (Luke 12:49)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Wilton Cardinal Gregory,  
Archbishop of Washington

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The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

[appeal.adw.org](https://appeal.adw.org)

# Crystal and Paul: Their Journey to the Altar



By Eliza Fulton

After years of courtship including through a pandemic, Crystal Palting and Paul Harrod, Jr. will enter into the sacrament of marriage this October. Both cradle Catholics, Crystal and Paul shared the desire to marry within the Church, leading them to sign up for a marriage preparation course through the Office of Family Life at the Archdiocese of Washington.

"I was not expecting to enjoy the class this much," said Paul.

Last year, the Office of Family Life, an Annual Appeal supported ministry, led nearly 315 couples, like Crystal and Paul, through their comprehensive marriage preparation program. This program, along with others within the office, work to serve the Archbishop and the needs of the priests

*Continued on next page*

## DONOR REFLECTION: JAMIE ALBERTINE

### Why do you choose to give to the Annual Appeal?



**Donor:** Jamie Albertine  
**Parish:** Little Flower Church,  
Washington, DC  
**Years at Parish:** 26

I grew up in Bethesda, MD attending Little Flower Church as a parishioner since 1984 until leaving the area in 2000. My wife, children and I moved back to Bethesda in 2012 and have enjoyed being reunited with Little Flower since our return.

Our children, Alaina (11), Annie (8) and James (5) attend Little Flower School and are also very active on CYO sports teams throughout the school year. Our son, James, was baptized at Little Flower. I have personally served as a lector and usher at Sunday Masses since returning to Little Flower while my wife, Marilyn, and I lend our support in carrying out the coordination of weekly greeters and gift bearers for the parish. I also volunteered as one of the Lay Speakers at Little Flower on behalf of the Annual Appeal in 2022.

The Annual Appeal is core to our annual charitable gift giving plans, affording us the opportunity to extend the support we provide to our home parish to the broader Archdiocese of Washington community at large. It is the single best way, in our opinion, to support a wide variety of initiatives that otherwise would be difficult to positively impact on a standalone basis.

**"It is the single best way, in our opinion, to support a wide variety of initiatives."**

**Did you know?** Giving Tuesday is coming up on Nov. 29, 2022. In 2021, 391 donors donated \$95,920 to the Annual Appeal for Giving Tuesday!



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and parishioners to build, strengthen, and create a culture of marriage and family life.

Couples have a range of options to fit their busy schedules spanning from an intensive weekend course to a weekly option taking place over six weeks. Through the course, couples are "intentionally accompanied along their journey to building a solid foundation that they can carry on for the rest of their lives," shared Carla Ferrando-Bowling, the Director of the Office of Family Life.

Crystal and Paul, parishioners at Ascension Parish in Bowie, Maryland, participated in the six-week version of the program in the Spring of 2022. "Through this course, my mindset changed from preparing for a wedding to preparing for a marriage," shared Crystal. "In a way, it pulled us out of the pre-wedding stress and allowed us to focus on the covenant afterward."

Having met online more than a decade ago, there have been many moments leading up to the couple's wedding day this October. "I remember hanging out with her for the first time and feeling like everything was falling into place," Paul said.

Paul's extensive family history in the area and connection to Ascension kept him grounded in his Catholic faith through his early years. However, now being able to share in that history with Crystal, Paul said his experience with his spirituality has radically changed because he has "someone to digest the message of the Mass with... It's almost like hearing these things for the first time."

"I've found that through my relationship with Paul that I have reconnected with the deeper meaning of what it means to be Catholic," Crystal added.

Through their experience of meeting sponsor couples and learning more about the sacrament of marriage through their marriage preparation course, Paul and Crystal enter into their marriage excited about what their life together will look like. "We had so much fun learning about the faith and each other. Now I'm just excited to meet my husband," Crystal said.

"The marriage preparation we are doing is not just for the wedding day, it's for life," Carla Ferrando-Bowling shared. "We work

to be welcoming to couples in all places in their spiritual journey. Our door is always open for them as they enter into their vocation."

As well as supporting couples as they prepare to enter into the vocation of marriage, the Office of Family Life honors those already married. On August 20, our Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass was celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Gregory at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This celebration highlighted the witness to the Catholic vocation of marriage and the beauty of God's plan for married life.

To learn more about the programs offered by the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Family Life, contact Sally Daniel at [daniels@adw.org](mailto:daniels@adw.org) or 301-853-4546.

*Eliza Fulton is a Development Coordinator in the Office of Development at The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.*



**Thank you for being a part of Crystal and Paul's journey, and for helping us reach many more couples and families through your prayerful generosity.**

### Upcoming Events

**October 29, 2022**  
Catechetical Day: (Re)Discover the Beauty of the Eucharist  
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School

**October 30, 2022**  
13th Annual White Mass  
St. Mary's in Landover Hills, MD

**November 5-6, 2022**  
High School Men's Come & See Retreat  
St. John Paul II Seminary

**December 11, 2022, 4:30-7:00 p.m.**  
Men's Discernment Mass and Dinner with Cardinal Gregory  
St. John Paul II National Shrine

**As you plan your year-end giving and future support of the Church of Washington, keep in mind the many ways you can give:**

- By Check
- Credit Card or Direct Debit
- By Phone
- Stock
- IRAs and Donor Advised Funds
- \*NEW\* Cryptocurrency
- And more...

**Go to [adw.org/ways-to-give](https://adw.org/ways-to-give) for more information**

## IN OTHER NEWS...

**Mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday on November 29!**

On this national day of giving join us at

**[washington.igivecatholic.org](https://washington.igivecatholic.org)**

to support your favorite Catholic Organizations. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

### Retired Priests Collection November 5 & 6



The Retired Priest Collection will take place on November 5 and 6 at your parish. Thank you for your generosity in supporting those who have so graciously served our Archdiocese throughout the course of their lives.

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# BUILDING THE KINGDOM

THANK YOU for helping us raise over \$10 million for the 2022 Annual Appeal!



The image shows three young students in school uniforms and face masks. They are holding yellow booklets that say 'SHOW STUDENTS YOU CARE' and '19'. The student on the left is a girl with a black mask and a headband. The student in the middle is a girl with glasses and a pink mask. The student on the right is a boy with glasses and a blue mask. They are all smiling and looking at the camera.

TOTAL DONORS  
**18,426**

NEW DONORS  
**1,672**

PARISHES OVER GOAL  
**39**

Visit [appeal.adw.org](https://appeal.adw.org)  
for the real-time Annual  
Appeal leaderboard.