

Where do the dollars go?

A series of articles on how our local communities benefit from donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Msgr. Ott – Holy Family Villa for Priests

Bishop's
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Faith • Hope • Charity

In his 51 years as a priest, Msgr. Alfred R. Ott has served five parishes in nearly every corner of the Diocese of Allentown.

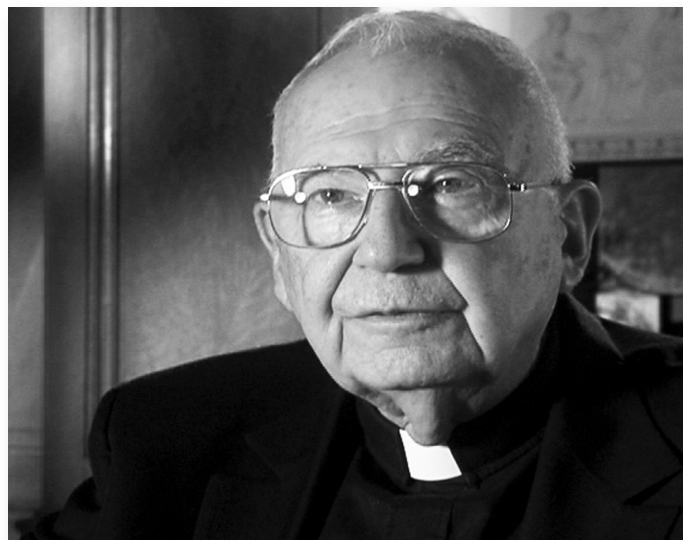
“It’s a wonderful way to spend your life,” he said, looking back fondly. “In a way, a priest lives his life many times over, by sharing in the lives of the people and families he serves.”

These days, Msgr. Ott, now 80, lives in Holy Family Villa, a residence for retired priests funded in part by donations to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

He spends his days in quiet reflection, remembering his days at St. Paul’s, Reading; St. Anne’s, Bethlehem; St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven; Sacred Heart, West Reading; and Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Holy Family Villa is a modest facility on a quiet street in West Bethlehem, where aging priests get the help and care they need to spend their remaining years in a caring and loving environment.

“As anyone who has a loved one in this situation knows, providing 24-hour-care is very, very



expensive,” said Msgr. Gerald Gobitas, Rector of Holy Family Villa. There are 18 priests currently in residence.

“We’re very grateful for the support we receive from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal,” Msgr. Gobitas said. “Without these donations from generous people around the diocese, we would not be able to provide the kind of care Msgr. Ott and our other retired priests need.”