

Dear friends in Christ,

Spring ushers in signs of light and new life, most notably the resurrection of our Savior! Following His resurrection, the disciples ran to share with other followers, and ultimately, the world, what had just transpired. The good news delivered on that Easter morning is the word which guides us to this day. Through the efforts of our annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), diocesan ministries and programs promote Jesus' commandments to love, teach, and serve. These programs and ministries are only possible through your generous support.

Throughout our 11-county diocese, many of our 191,000 Catholics annually support needs that are beyond the ability of any one parish to sustain on its own. In the same way that you support your parish's programs through the weekly offertory, the diocese also relies on your donations to the CSA to provide services to thousands of individuals each year.

I encourage you to take a moment to read the enclosed brochure and learn about the ministries and programs sustained through the CSA. Please pray and reflect upon the many ways the CSA positively impacts the lives of families and individuals in our diocese and how you can best offer your financial support.

May God bless you for so richly sharing your gifts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids



“In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

- Acts 20:35



**Online:**

[GRdiocese.org/CSA](http://GRdiocese.org/CSA)

Click the 'Diocese' menu and choose 'Catholic Services Appeal.' There, you will be given options for making secure monthly installments or a one-time gift using a credit card or a bank account number.

**Mail:**

Please fill out the pledge card that was included in your CSA mailing, and using the envelope provided, mail it to your parish (please do not mail your pledge card to the Diocese of Grand Rapids).

**In Person:**

You may also fill out your pledge card and return it to your parish office or drop it in a collection basket during Mass.



**Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids**  
360 Division Ave. S. | Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
616-243-0491

[GRdiocese.org/CSA](http://GRdiocese.org/CSA)



# Catholic Services Appeal 2019

◀ **SO FAITH MAY FLOURISH** ▶



DIocese of GRAND RAPIDS

[GRdiocese.org/CSA](http://GRdiocese.org/CSA)

# What is the Catholic Services Appeal?



Annually, all of our parishes participate in the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) which supports vital ministries, programs and services, impacting the lives of thousands in our 11 counties and throughout West Michigan. Through these ministries and services, we respond as a Catholic community to the summons of the Beatitudes to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and comfort the sick, as well as to our baptismal call to be missionary disciples, spreading the good news through Catholic school education, catechesis, and faith formation.

## Priestly Vocations

The future of the Catholic Church relies on men answering God's call to this vocation in their lives. But becoming a priest is much more than responding with that initial 'yes,' it is a succession of yesses which take place over a years-long journey of discernment and study. The Office of Priestly Vocations supports candidates in prayerfully discerning their call to become priests and walks with them through the joys and the challenges of the formation process and ordained life.

Currently, there are 28 men from our diocese in formation for the priesthood. Your CSA supports the work of this important office as it guides men along the journey to priesthood and provides ongoing formation for the priests of our diocese.

## Catholic School Education

More than 6,500 students in 31 Catholic schools across our 11-county diocese are formed in our faith, educated for college and life, and provided with an environment in which they are welcomed and cherished for their unique gifts. Your CSA gift ensures that a Catholic school education is possible for all children by providing scholarship support. In addition, your gift helps the Office of Catholic Schools as it partners with principals and teachers in the areas of policy, standards, training and curriculum.

## Cultural Ministries

The Catholic community in the Diocese of Grand Rapids is enriched by people of many cultures who come together to form the universal Church. Your gift to the CSA supports our Hispanic, Black Catholic, and Native American ministry offices which help to meet the sacramental, spiritual and material needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ through education, programming and outreach.

## Catholic Charities

Through your CSA contribution, you help Catholic Charities West Michigan (CCWM) meet the needs of our community by feeding the hungry, counseling those who struggle, and building strong families in our 11-county diocese.

Catholic Charities' innovative and collaborative programs, like the new God's Kitchen food truck, provide help and create hope for the poor and impoverished. Last year alone, CCWM provided more than 150,000 meals to the hungry, solution-based and family preservation support to 2,100 families, and looked after 300 children in foster care, on a daily basis. This is why Pope Francis has referred to Catholic Charities as "the engine of the Church that organizes love."

## Catechesis

Catechesis goes beyond intellectual formation. It's a process that seeks to be transformative in helping one grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. Each year, religious education and formation programs for children, youth, adults, and people with disabilities are provided through our parishes to help strengthen people in that process. Your CSA contribution helps train and support parish catechists and directors of religious education while ensuring that materials are accurate, up-to-date and effective in enabling all to grow in faith and discipleship.

## Communication

The Office of Communications works to carry out the call to bring Christ and his message of salvation into the world. For more than 60 years, the broadcast of Sunday Mass has served as a ministry to the homebound, hospitalized and incarcerated through your generous support. Catholics, and anyone with access to a television or the internet, are able to participate in the celebration of Mass every Sunday from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on FOX 17, at GRdiocese.org, or on Facebook.

FAITH Grand Rapids magazine, also produced out of the communications office, reaches more than 44,000 homes ten times per year, and an additional 4,000 people four times a year with a Spanish-language issue, sharing inspirational stories of the faith of every day Catholic men and women.

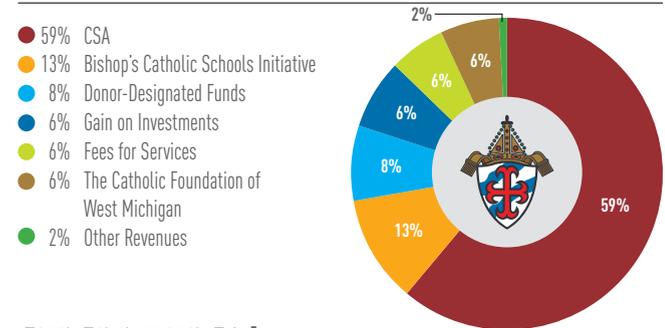
Through the combined efforts of our 80 parishes, the Catholic Services Appeal helps fund vital programs, services and ministries in the 11-county Diocese of Grand Rapids. The Catholic Services Appeal touches 191,000 Catholics and thousands more in our communities and beyond.

Your gift helps support:

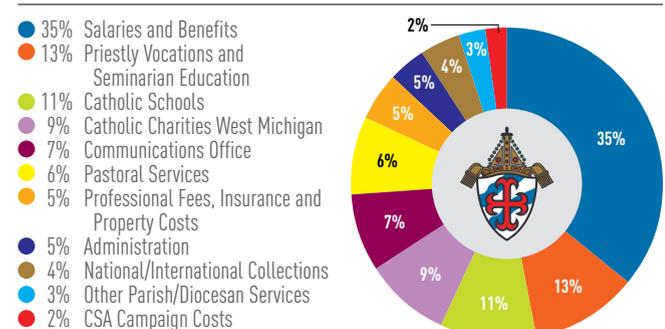
- 28** .....seminarians in formation
- 133** .....parish youth ministry and catechetical leaders
- 9,717** .....youth in faith formation (K-12)
- 6,555** .....students in Catholic schools (PK-12)
- 300+** .....children receiving loving support through CCWM's foster care programs
- 137,191** .....individuals served through CCWM's food programs

**CSA 2019 GOAL: \$6,389,000**

## REVENUES\*



## EXPENDITURES\*



\*For the year ended 6/30/2018



Learn more in our annual diocesan report that was published in the October 2018 edition of FAITH Grand Rapids magazine and available online at GRdiocese.org.