



# Catholic Services Appeal

◀ SO FAITH MAY FLOURISH ▶

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your faithfulness in these challenging times. I am grateful for your support, both in prayer and financially, over this past year. It has not been an easy year for any of us. I am proud of the way our pastors, parish and school staff, and diocesan staff quickly adapted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I am also proud of the generous people throughout our diocese. It was through your contributions to last year's Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) that important programs and ministries were able to continue.

I ask you once again for your support of this year's CSA appeal. This annual campaign reminds us that we are part of the larger Church that asks us to bring the love of Christ into the world through words and actions. When we work together as a community of believers, we can provide greater support than any person or parish on their own. Your gift to last year's appeal made it possible, in part, for more than 6,300 children to be educated in our Catholic schools, and another 8,600 children in faith formation; to help fund the education of 20 seminarians, while providing support for more than 105 diocesan priests. Your gift helped feed more than 32,600 individuals through Catholic Charities West Michigan's food and pantry programs. These numbers represent just a portion of the ministries supported at the diocesan level that we achieved together. Thank you for being such a powerful witness!

We are reminded through the words of Saint Peter, "Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:8-10) By contributing to the annual Catholic Services Appeal you are a steward of God's grace. Both in ancient times and today, people need the light that Christ brings, a light that cannot be overcome by the darkness of a pandemic, injustice, or division.

This has been a difficult year financially for many. I ask you to give what you are able. Jesus knows our intentions. We show the depth of our faith when we choose to trust Him. Please prayerfully consider your gift, knowing every single contribution helps us reach our overall diocesan goal.

The Church's mission is clear. We are the Body of Christ. Please support these critical ministries by completing the enclosed pledge card. Thank you for your prayerful support of our annual appeal!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids

