

Dear parishioners,

The Diocese of Joliet does many things that an individual parish cannot do alone. Each and every one of us is a part of the Diocese of Joliet. Without our support, the diocese cannot provide ministry, education, and services to thousands of people. An important, but little discussed fact is that as members of one “holy, catholic and apostolic church,” we are all members of our parish, our diocese, and the Universal Church. This is the way that the Catholic Church is organized, and the Diocese of Joliet is our Local Church. The diocese serves over 585,080 Catholics throughout our seven counties. A gift to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal 2020 is very important because it provides most, if not all, of the funding for the 30 ministries that serve hundreds of thousands of people in our diocese, throughout our country, and the world.

The diocese provides priests to staff our parishes. Right now, there are 38 seminarians being educated for priestly service in our diocese. We are very blessed to have this many, but, imagine for a moment the total cost of each year of college and graduate school education. The CMAA, through your contributions, helps to pay these costs. Through Catholic Charities, over 29,275 nights of shelter and housing are provided to the homeless. Over 75,450 free meals are served at Shepherd’s Table. The Appeal helps fund Young Adult and Youth Ministry programs that serve approximately 25,500 of our youth and young adults. The Catholic Schools Office, among its many responsibilities, provides oversight, assistance and direction to our 52 elementary/high schools with over 17,200 students in our diocese. The Religious Education Office provides oversight, guidance, support, training and services for directors of Religious Education, Religious Education teachers and Religious Education programs across the diocese that reach over 35,000 students a year. The diocese makes available employee insurance, property insurance, and other items at a lower cost than an individual parish could afford. The following is also a very important point.

Again, this Appeal is for our diocese, of which we are all a part. The Appeal program allows for your donation to be made all at once, or you can make a pledge that enables a larger gift because people can make 10 payments. It is as

part of the Diocese of Joliet that we can multiply the expression of the Word of God and touch many thousands of people whom we could never reach on our own or as an individual parish. Please find in today's bulletin more information on the Appeal to learn more about the important work that takes place here in our Diocese of Joliet. All registered parishioners should have received this information.

***The "theme" for this year's Appeal is Be Kind and Merciful.***

***This year's parish goal for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is \$33,700.***

***For Immaculate Conception Parish \$11,200.***

***Congratulations to the parishioners of Immaculate Conception parish who pledged and paid their goal in record time with 50+ donors. Again, the goal was \$11,200, \$18,747 was pledged, and \$15,482 was paid on the goal.***

***Thank you to the parishioners of Assumption parish who have pledged and paid toward their goal. Again, the goal is \$33,700. So far \$30,181 has been pledged with 160+ donors, and \$26,761 has already been paid on the goal.***

Let's continue to pray that both parishes meet and exceed their target goals. We've met and exceeded our goals for the last eleven years. Let's do it again with God's grace to inspire us to be good and generous stewards. 70 percent of the amounts we raise over our goal amounts are returned to us for our needs in the parish. Please prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal and make a commitment very soon if you are able.

Thank you for considering the most generous pledge possible to this year's annual appeal.

Father Bader