

# Raised in Christ

2016/2017 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



Go to [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org) • View the CMA Video • See how the funds are distributed • Make your gift

“*Raised in Christ*” – this is the theme of this year’s Annual Catholic Ministries Appeal. You may have already received your letter from Bishop Matano inviting your participation in this year’s appeal. For 35 years, this appeal has been the backbone of the funds used by our diocese to perform the ministry that Jesus calls our church to.

This year’s theme reflects how we are called to help each other, raising each other up in Christ. The appeal makes up around 60% of the entire diocesan budget. A little over 10% of the appeal goes to support the work of Catholic Charities. Recently, Deacon Peter Dohr who is the Executive Director of Catholic Charities Wayne County spoke to us about their ministry.

The appeal also helps support the work of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as they work to make known what Jesus has taught us. It also helps support the work of Pope Francis as he leads our church in a world where many have turned away from God.

Through your contributions the diocese has gone to a no-fees policy for annulments to help those are dealing with the difficulty of a broken marriage. As a parish we are able to go to the diocese for support with our RCIA, faith formation for children, youth groups. The diocese maintains our computers. Literally, as I am typing this, a person from the diocesan IT office is working to install new software on our office computers. We do pay for software and equipment but the work is done at no charge. On the finance and administration, the diocese keeps us up on all the new regulations and laws we need to follow.

The good news is our goal is down from previous years by \$6,000 to \$45,750. However, that is still well more than the \$36,971 we raised last year. I believe we can make this goal. Of course, it means that parishioners who have contributed in the past and are able need to increase their gift. We also need people who haven’t contributed in the past and are able to contribute. *Every dollar is important!* Last year contributions ranged from \$5 to just over \$5,100 with an average contribution of \$155. Every little bit adds up.

By the time you read this I will have made my contribution. I ask you to pray about what you are able to contribute. In case you didn’t know, when we fall short of our goal, we pay the difference out of our parish funds so your contribution to the CMA has a direct impact on our budget.

Peace,

Fr. Jeff

