

Glorifying the Lord by Our Lives

As we begin our annual Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), we approach the 150th Anniversary of our diocese and celebrate our Year of the Eucharist. Thus, it is appropriate that this year's theme comes from the dismissal formula Fr. Jeff most often uses at the end of Mass, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

The CMA is the backbone of our diocesan funding, making up over half of the diocesan budget. This appeal makes possible the ministry of our church. In contributing to the appeal, we are showing that we appreciate what God and our Church have done for us and give glory to God.

Through hard work and your generosity we made our goal last year for the first time. We made our goal by just \$75, so *every* contribution is important. *We are very appreciative* of the sacrificial giving you showed that made it possible for us to reach a total of \$45,825! This was almost \$9,000 more than the previous year. We also raised our participation rate from 21.1% to 26.4%, all by your generosity.

Our goal for this year is \$46,195, just \$445 (1.0%) more than last year. We can meet this goal! Yet, we know that not everyone will be able to contribute. Some of our contributors from past years have passed away, others have moved, while others' financial situations may have changed so they can no longer contribute as much. If you can contribute more, we ask you to prayerfully consider it. If you cannot contribute as much, we understand. Whatever you can contribute is appreciated.

The CMA fund is used to help support Catholic Charities locally in its efforts to serve those in need and globally supports the work of Pope Francis. Within our own parish, the diocese helps us in ways like doing all the work to maintain our parish computers at no cost except for the equipment itself, and the diocesan Finance Office helps us keep up on changes in laws about employees, health care, and reporting requirements.

By the time you read this, I will have made my contribution. I ask you to pray about what you are able to contribute. Please remember that if 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,

