

CSA benefits our parishes spiritually and physically



The CSA is important to all parishes, and to the mission of the Archdiocese of Detroit, according to Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in St. Clair Shores.

“Not a single parish can try to accomplish all that needs to be accomplished for the greater good of the metropolitan Detroit area,” he says. “The CSA supports so many great ministries.”

Reflecting on Jesus’ message at the end of His Sermon on the Mount, Msgr. Bugarin notes that the CSA provides the faithful with a “great opportunity” to *light our lamps so all can see our good deeds* (Mt 5:15-16). “Why do we do CSA?” he asks. “So we can glorify our heavenly Father.”

In addition, the CSA is an important aspect of life in the Archdiocese, as it reinforces the Archbishop’s mission to *share Christ in and through the Church*. “CSA helps us with our fundamental mission of getting Christ’s message out to the entire community,” Msgr. Bugarin adds.

Parishes benefit from CSA refunds

Each year before the Catholic Services Appeal, Father Charles Altermatt, pastor of St. Alfred Parish in Taylor, meets with the Finance Council to discuss how much the parish can raise above its CSA target. They select a project based on that amount — since parishes that exceed their targets receive 100 percent of the overage.

The parish then strives to “refill” its savings account after a successful CSA, says Ana Juarez, business manager. Father Altermatt promotes the benefits of the CSA to the Archdiocese as well as to the parish.

In the past, with the help of CSA refunds, St. Alfred has replaced its old sign with a digital sign, purchased two stained glass windows, and renovated the vestibule, including new floor, lighting, and painting.

“People like to see the fruits of their money,” Ana says. Besides the benefits provided to so many through CSA-funded programs, including St. Alfred parishioners, “through the renovations we have done in the church with the overage of the CSA target, they see how their money is being spent.”



CONSIDER A PLEDGE TO THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

The Catholic Services Appeal is a pledge program. While one-time cash gifts are welcomed, pledging often allows for more generous — and affordable — contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal.

A pledge allows you to spread out your gift over several months. You have the option of making an initial payment when you fill out your pledge card, then paying the remaining balance with nine additional monthly payments.

GIFT OPPORTUNITIES USING THE 10-PAYMENT PLAN

Gift amount	Initial payment	9 monthly payments	Daily sacrifice
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$27.40
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$13.70
\$ 2,000	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 5.48
\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 2.74
\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 1.37
\$ 300	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 0.82

Online Giving

Online giving helps the Archdiocese of Detroit answer our Holy Father’s call to care for “our common home.” Online payments allow the CSA Office to save on postage and paper, because they eliminate the need for monthly mailings. With thousands of generous donors contributing to the CSA each year, this amounts to a considerable environmental savings, and is good stewardship.

You can set up your gift or pledge online at give.aodcso.org. Please specify your parish on the donation form. If you choose not to use the online giving portal, but would like to make your pledge payments electronically, you may call (888) 331-8695.



For information about the ministries, programs, and services funded by the CSA, please go to the Archdiocese of Detroit website, www.aod.org.



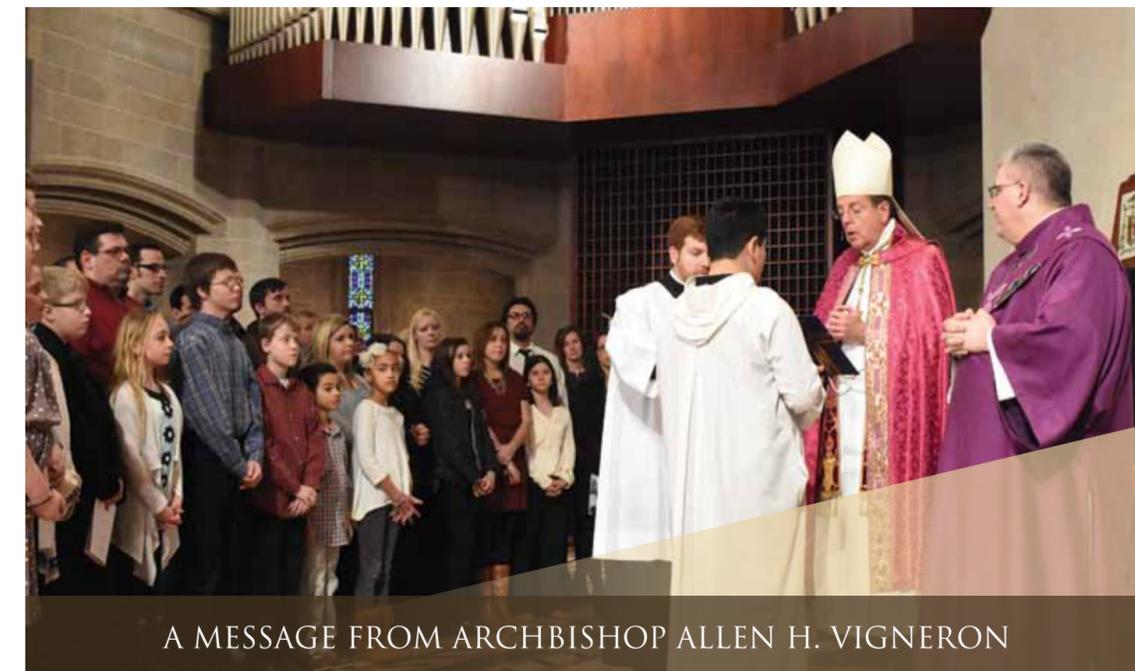
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OPENING DOORS TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT | CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2017



A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP ALLEN H. VIGNERON

Loving Father,

Inspire us to answer the call of our shepherd, Pope Francis, to be a band of joyful missionary disciples.

Lead us as disciples of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to unleash His Gospel through opening doors so that all may encounter His mercy and love.

Guide us to embrace the truth that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from Your infinite bounty, given to us to share in building Your kingdom on earth.

Help us to understand that in our joyful support of the ministries, programs, and services funded by the Catholic Services Appeal, we carry out the corporal and spiritual works of Christ’s mercy for untold thousands of beneficiaries.

Bless the clergy, religious men and women, and laity who labor to deliver these beneficial works throughout southeast Michigan and beyond.

We pray always through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Our Holy Father has invited all Catholics to renew their personal relationship with our Savior, as “the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” In this spirit, the theme of the 2017 Catholic Services Appeal is *Opening Doors to Encounter Christ*.

As our theme suggests, Jesus encourages us to examine our lives and reflect on how we may experience a deeper, more personal relationship with Him. At the same time, He also asks that we open doors so others may also have this personal encounter with Him.

Each year, our CSA brings us this opportunity. Together, as Christian stewards, we live out the Gospel mission of our Church through our support of the CSA. The ministries, programs, and services our annual appeal funds reach every soul in our six-county Archdiocese, strengthening urban and rural faith communities alike. No one individual or parish could possibly accomplish all of these good works themselves! Truly, the CSA transforms our diverse family of believers into, in the words of Pope Francis, a “band of joyful missionary disciples.”

As you prayerfully consider your pledge to the 2017 CSA, please take a moment to read how grateful your friends and neighbors are for the personal benefits they have received from the good works the CSA supports right here in our local Church. I am sure you will be inspired to once again make the most generous gift possible.

+Allen H. Vigneron

Archbishop of Detroit



STEWARDSHIP: God blesses us when we bless others in mercy and love

Matthew’s familiar Gospel passage, *Whatever you did for these least ones of mine, you did for me* (Mt 25:40), reminds us of our obligation, as Christ’s disciples, to be faithful stewards of God’s blessings — especially when we bless others in mercy and love.

Indeed, when we embrace stewardship as a way of life, we live this year’s CSA theme, *Opening Doors to Encounter Christ*. Through our support of the CSA, we open the doors of Christ’s mercy and love to thousands of people in southeast Michigan and beyond.

In their pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, the U.S. bishops ask responsible stewards and people of faith “to share in the work of evangelization or proclaiming the Good News ... in works of justice and mercy on behalf of people in need.” By generously sharing ourselves through the Catholic Services Appeal, we are “grateful givers” and find a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

When we support the Catholic Services Appeal, we *open doors to encounter Christ* — but not only in our own lives. Our gifts ensure others also know the Lord through the ministries, programs, and services the CSA funds in the six counties of our Archdiocese.



Campus ministry helps foster college students' spiritual growth as they take their first steps toward independence and adulthood.

"Being Catholic is not popular in college," says Brigid Jacob, a junior at Wayne State University in Detroit. "It's nice to have a community to fall back on when you're on campus."

Brigid and other Wayne State students turn to the Newman Catholic Center for weekday and Sunday Masses, the sacraments, faith studies, and social activities. Sophomore Leya Maliekal says the center is a place of solace she can always count on, whether she wants to talk to a priest, go to Confession, or simply find a peaceful place.

"It's just there with doors open, fresh coffee, and food in the fridge," says Leya, who grew up as a member of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish in Southfield with Brigid. "All because people are willing to donate to the CSA."



Each year, CSA gifts help keep Catholic schools across our Archdiocese strong, innovative, and competitive for today's students through the **School Outreach Fund**. At St. Clare of Montefalco School in Grosse Pointe Park, grants have been used to update technology — purchasing SMART Boards and Chromebooks for classrooms and overhauling the school's wireless

infrastructure. Funds have also been used to repair the 90-year-old building's roof and replace water fountains.

"Since we can rely on the generosity of the School Outreach Fund for these unexpected and one-time expenses, we are able to keep our tuition prices affordable and stable for our families," says Geoffrey Fisher, principal. "The School Outreach Fund helps schools continue Jesus' missionary work."

As a parish nurse at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Warren, Renee Heileman, RN, is "continuing the healing ministry of Christ" — as are the faithful who support the CSA with their gifts.

Parish nursing is not hands-on, like nursing in a healthcare setting, although parish nurses are registered nurses with a current license to practice. Renee's ministry at St. Martin de Porres includes blood pressure screenings, flu shot clinics, and armchair aerobics classes, as well as spiritual retreats and home visits with the Eucharist.

"Parish nurses encourage whole congregations to care for themselves, thus being good stewards of their gift of life," Renee says.



Take Back the Night brought **Black Catholic Ministries** to Detroit's most violent neighborhoods last year, where participants spent weeks praying on different street corners for five nights in a row. The evangelization effort "was very powerful," says Patricia Dixon, a parishioner at St. Charles Lwanga Parish in Detroit. "The Holy Spirit was with us every night."

The Black Catholic Ministries Office is vital to ensuring the Archdiocese meets the needs of African American Catholics. Cultural differences and church closings and mergers necessitate the need for a visible presence in the community, Patricia says.

"Our Church is so big and so beautiful, it's almost like a melting pot," she adds. "The CSA helps all feel welcomed and included."



CSA support of **Hispanic Ministries**, especially the annual conference for Hispanic youth, "makes us feel that we matter," says Luz Solis, a high school senior helping to plan this year's event.

She and other first-generation children often find themselves straddling two cultures at once. "In Mexico, you don't completely fit in. Here, you're not always considered American because your parents are immigrants and you have a Hispanic background," Luz explains.

Last year's first **Hispanic Youth Conference** gathered 1,500 teens, and the goal of this year's event is to continue building community and to help participants grow spiritually and individually. "It was amazing to see all these teens gathered in the same place for the Church," says Antonio Guzman, youth minister at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in southwest Detroit.

"Thanks to the CSA, we are able to continue to do this amazing stuff with youth who are in need of knowing Jesus more," Antonio says. "It's a blessing."

St. Fabian parishioners who attended the **Amazing Parish** conference with their pastor, Father Jeff Day, were immediately inspired to apply the seven traits of a vibrant parish at the Farmington Hills parish.

"By having the CSA fund the conference, and by inviting all parishes to participate, it was a shared experience between pastors and parish leaders," Father Day says. "The support of the CSA gave us a unifying event in the life of the Archdiocese. It also helped give the Synod vision and energy. I am very grateful that the CSA was able to help our parish, and our whole Archdiocese, get pointed in the right direction."

St. Fabian developed a three-year plan following Amazing Parish, and has focused more on fellowship and launched a new preaching series covering topics like understanding the Mass.

"Many people speak of the parish being 'more alive' and having a sense of the Holy Spirit being active and present," Father Day says. "This makes me believe in what we are doing, and makes me very optimistic for the future of the Church."



When Ronnie Bachman decided to convert to Catholicism, he brought his checkbook to the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** at Divine Child Parish in Dearborn. He was shocked to learn

the yearlong program carried no fee.

"The CSA makes the RCIA possible for people of other faiths and even non-believers to find their way to Catholicism," he says.

Ronnie's journey, which began a dozen years ago with a personal study of the life of Jesus, concluded at this year's Easter Vigil, when he and other candidates, as well as catechumens, were welcomed into the Catholic Church. "I just found so much peace, and I was comfortable finally saying, 'This is who I am. This is where I want to be,'" he says.



Since graduating from college, Steven Stechschulte has sought ways to be more involved with the Catholic young adult community.

"**Theology on Tap** has been a great way for me to have an interesting experience, listen to lectures about topics that interest me, and meet other Catholics my age," says Steven, a member of St.

Joseph Parish in Lake Orion. "I really appreciate that the CSA funds this valuable ministry to the Church."

Each month, young adults in the Archdiocese are invited to gather at these fellowship evenings featuring speakers on topics relating to religion and theology.

"Some programs can be geared toward children or well-established adults," says Kristen Uitenham, who belongs to St. Paul on the Lake Parish in Grosse Pointe Farms. "It's really nice to have a place for us in the middle to come together."



Thanks to a CSA-funded **Parish Empowerment Fund (PEF)**, Detroit's Christ the King Parish helps provide more than 20,000 meals each year to men, women, and children at the St. Christine Soup Kitchen. The PEF encourages parishes to initiate or enhance evangelization efforts in their neighborhoods, and grants also fund scholarships for lay people at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

"It's so much more than serving a meal — it's caring for people and meeting their needs," says Sister Magdalena Kimberly, soup kitchen coordinator. "Words cannot express our thanks to CSA donors for the support we receive. There are a lot of Jesus moments here."



At **Sacred Heart Major Seminary**, men study for the priesthood as well as for the permanent diaconate, and women and men prepare for pastoral ministry. Thanks to the CSA, our future shepherds and leaders have a solid foundation in theology and Church teaching.



"It's truly humbling to know that so many people are supporting us and praying for us. One of the beautiful blessings that I've experienced in seminary is being able to return those prayers. It's a great joy to pray for those who I'll minister to in the

future, my future parishioners."
~ Adam Nowak, St. Cyprian Parish, Riverview



"I am very grateful for the support that the people of the Archdiocese of Detroit have contributed to my formation as a man of God. I realize I can never fully pay this back, but one of the things I can do is say thank you by my faithful service, by my openness to serve, and by my willingness to minister as a priest very soon."

~ James Houbeck, St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish, Roseville



"The Lord called, and he kept calling until the time was right. It wouldn't be possible for me to come here to discern my vocation if not for the generosity of all of the people in the Church who donate to the CSA."

~ Christopher Muer, St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, Grosse Pointe Park



"In the early Church, the Holy Spirit worked in the local people, who assisted and called a young man to the priesthood, such as with St. Augustine and St. Ambrose. Now, 1,700 years later, the people of this area help and assist with the formation of their priests

through the CSA. In an indirect way, through their financial support, they help us directly. And just as in the early Church, we become priests for them, not just for ourselves."

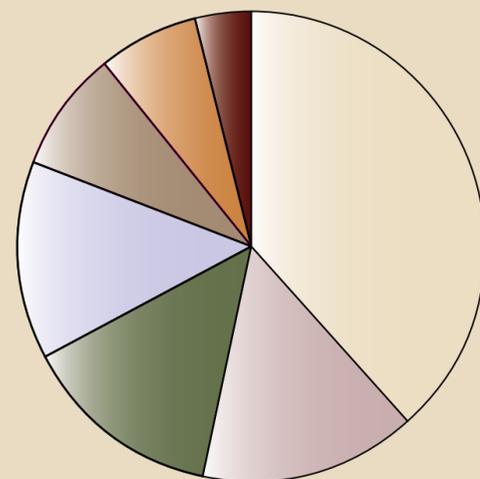
~ Brother Jahaunn McKenzie, OSB, St. Louise de Marillac Parish, Warren

YOUR CSA GIFTS AT WORK

The Catholic Services Appeal benefits parishes and people in the Archdiocese of Detroit and beyond through the more than 100 ministries, programs, and services it funds.

No CSA dollars have ever been — or ever will be — used to settle claims of any nature against the Archdiocese, or to support projects outside of the Archdiocese, other than six specific national collections of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The archdiocesan lay Finance Council oversees the distribution of CSA funds to ensure all reach the ministries, programs, and services for which they are intended. (A comprehensive list can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website, at www.aod.org/csa.)

The budget for the 2017 Catholic Services Appeal is **\$17,896,905**. The pie chart below illustrates how your CSA gifts did so much for so many last year.



- Mission Grants | \$6,967,609
(Includes grants to Sacred Heart Major Seminary, parishes, schools, and USCCB national collections)
- Clergy Life, Priestly Vocations, Seminarian Education | \$2,681,045
- Parish Life and Christian Services | \$2,538,743
- Catholic Schools, Evangelization, Youth and Minority Ministries | \$2,440,855
- Communications, Social and Digital Media | \$1,531,230
- Stewardship and Development Programs | \$1,233,470
- Metropolitan Tribunal | \$684,121