

A note from Father Daniel about the CMA

My dear friends we have come to that time of the year in which we are reminded that we belong to a universal church that extends way beyond the limits of our individual parishes and that our call to preach the Gospel in deeds and words must reach to the ends of the earth. One of the ways in which we have an opportunity to respond to this universal call, to enlarge our hearts like that of Jesus Christ, to hold in compassion in generosity those a little further away is the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal (C.M.A.). Through this campaign the Ministries of the Bishop as well as many Diocesan wide (12 New York State counties: Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Steuben, Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Tompkins, Schuyler, Chemung, Tioga, Yates: with 86 parishes and a Catholic population of approximately 300,000) services and ministries.

Some of us might be reticent to contribute to the CMA because of the sex abuse scandal and the bankruptcy proceedings, so allow me to address this first. Sex abuse should have never happened in the church or in any other instance of our society and should never again happen, it is inexcusable. We must always be committed to transparency and to help the survivors heal first and foremost. For at least 20 years the church in the U.S. has been in a process of learning and growth in these matters and many policies have been created to create a safe environment for all. These have proven to have a real impact in preventing abuse and making reporting easier and more transparent. You can learn more about all these matters at: www.netcatholic.org/safe. Withholding donations from the C.M.A. while it might feel like a way to let the Diocese and the Bishop know how disgusted we are with what has happened in the past it has other probably unintended consequences that only go to hurting others further. The C.M.A. funds very necessary programs that would have to stop if there are no funds, hurting all in the territory of the Diocese. Withholding to donate to the C.M.A. impacts your parish directly, since we have to pay the totality of the goal no matter what. If we do not reach the goal through your donations, then we have to take money out of our parish programs to pay for the underage. So, my suggestion is that if you are experiencing some righteous anger regarding the sex abuse cases and the bankruptcy you channel that energy into supporting organizations that will assist the survivors and you write to the Diocese sharing your thoughts and feelings. Withholding donations from the C.M.A. is probably the most ineffective way to channel that anger. It does not get your point across and it hurts others.

That said, allow me to share with you **seven reasons why we should all contribute to the C.M.A.:**

- 1)Because it shows that we understand we belong to universal church and that **we are all sisters and brothers** and we are committed with our time, talent and treasure to extend Jesus' compassion to all and everywhere.
- 2)Because **it shows our support for our Bishop and our priests** who are doing their very best to continue the Mission of the Church through unprecedented times as we try to make reparation for the sins of previous generations, continue to minister through a pandemic and face all the other challenges of the church and society.
- 3)Because part of our donations will go directly to **support Catholic Schools**. In all times offering our children and

youth quality education and education in faith and values is a priority. As we see so many of our institutions and values deteriorate this is even more pressing. In addition through this pandemic the Catholic Schools in our Diocese are some of the few schools that are able to offer in person education five days a week given the small groups and ample space they have. Because of this they have become an essential resource specially for less fortunate families where both parents have to work and cannot afford child care.

4)Because part of our donations will go directly to **support Catholic Charities** which does an amazing job all across the Diocese helping the poor and whose mission needed now more than ever.

5)Because part of our donations will go to **support the education and training of new priests**. We are all aware that most of the priests in our Diocese are near retirement age, we only have 43 priests under the age of 65 to serve 86 parishes. Without priests there are no parishes, no sacraments, no Eucharist.

6)Because part of our donations go to **support diocesan wide services** such as catechesis, human resources, information technology, etc. I can attest that without such services **I would have not been able to navigate this pandemic. It is because of this services that we could handle all the painful yet necessary reorganization efforts of the last few months, it is because of such services that we are able to stream our Masses to all those that cannot attend in person, etc.**

7)Because you are constantly asking: **"Father, how can we help you?"** I always say, pray for me, read the bulletin and the weekly emails so you know what is going on and let me know when you need me. Today, I want to add one thing to that list: **LET'S REACH OUR CMA GOALS BY DECEMBER 31, 2020**, so that I do not have to worry and be asking again and again. I will make my donation this week: \$150 towards the goal for each of my parishes. I invite you to make your donation as soon as possible, before December 31. Please consider matching my gift if you can, or giving much more than me if you can, matching or surpassing what you usually give, and since we are all in this TOGETHER, lets **ALL give something**, if you can only give a few dollars then do that, but lets ALL give something.

Our CMA goals for this year remain the same as the 2 previous years:

Holy Cross Freeville #233: \$19,450

Saint Anthony Groton #255: \$9,813

All Saints Lansing #273: \$15,165

If you donated last year you should have received a letter and envelope at home to make your donation. If you did not get one you can donate online at: www.dor.org/giving/contribute-to-the-cma/, or you can simply write a check to: CMA and place it in our sacrificial offering stations in the back of our churches. If you are mailing your donation directly to the Diocese or donating online please make sure to mark your parish name clearly as it is above so that your donation goes towards your parish's goal. I know how generous you all are so I thank you in advance for your generous and prompt donations.

A.M.D.G., Father Daniel