Shining Christ’s Light...

Together as One Family in Faith

“We can draw others to Jesus by the ways we live our lives as people of vibrant faith, who love God and love our neighbor, especially those most in need.”

~Bishop Paul J. Bradley,
“From Darkness to Light: Hope for a New Pentecost”

The pandemic has presented many challenges, heartache and fear. However, even in the face of uncertainty, the Church is always present, Shining Christ’s Light. And, Together as One Family in Faith, we will continue to serve and care for one another.

Last year, in an effort to assist Parishes in securing financial stability Parish goals were reduced by 50% and monies raised over that were returned to the Parish. This year, the Diocese restores its annual goal level, seeking to raise: $3,266,422.

*diocesan financial statements available at diokzoo.org

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL | 2021

How the goals are determined:
Sunday and Holy Day collections
- $600 per student enrolled at a Catholic school
  \[ \times 18.85\% \]
  = Parish goal

Following are just a few examples of how your gift is used to Shine Christ’s Light:

$452,253 – amount provided to support the work of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo and Catholic Community Center, Benton Harbor, Mich.

20,000: the number of registered parishioner households that receive the quarterly diocesan magazine, Southwest Michigan Catholic, free of charge.

My/Our pledge to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is:

□ □ □ □ $ ___________

Initial Payment: $ ___________

Balance: $ ___________

Payment Plan:

1. [ ] Monthly
   Over ten months
   July – April

2. [ ] Quarterly
   July, October, January & April

3. [ ] Semi-Annually
   Specify two months
   July – April

4. [ ] Annually
   Specify month
   July – April

5. [ ] Online – Visit www.diokzoo.org to make your pledge and pay with a credit card or bank account.

Please make checks payable to:
(Name of Parish) Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Please return completed pledge card and any initial payment to your parish.
Your generous gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal secures the sacramental life of the Church; assists in the faith formation of our families; and brings life-saving hope and resources to those in need throughout our diocese and beyond.

For more information or to give online, visit diokzoo.org

Fostering Priestly Vocations
Our seminarians have been hard at work, continuing their studies remotely throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Former seminarian, now priest, Father David Pinto, was ordained to the priesthood on December 19, 2020 and, God willing, seminarian Jacob Thomas will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate May 2021. Gifts to the appeal support the education and formation expenses of all our diocesan seminarians allowing them to focus on their journey to becoming the future priests of our diocese. Each gift helps support our future priests who, in turn, provide a lifetime of pastoral and sacramental care.

Accompanying Families Toward Holiness
Our diocesan ministry offices provide engaging, inspirational and disciple-making resources to assist families at all stages. As COVID-19 restrictions impacted religious education, the office of Parish Life and Lay Leadership created a free comprehensive online Religious Education program, “The Way” available in both English and Spanish. The Office of Catholic Schools continued its arduous behind-the-scenes work supporting the 21 Catholic schools in the diocese. Additionally, the diocesan staff provides valuable professional development opportunities throughout the year for close to 300 teachers and catechists, such as the “Theology of the Body” series.

Activating Missionary Disciples
As Catholics, it is our baptismal call to be missionary disciples and spread the Good News in love. The diocese provides tools to assist the Faithful with this call. These include the Institute of Missionary Discipleship (IMD) which offers free online formation classes, both custom and through a partnership with Franciscan University; and the San Agustin Institute, the three-year faith formation of our Hispanic/Latino lay leaders. We also support the life-giving work of those on-the-ground ministering to our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. Monies from the Appeal also support the inspirtional work of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo and the Catholic Community Center.