



Diocesan Assessment and the Catholic Services Appeal Goal

“One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church” is a phrase describing the nature of our Catholic Community.

Catholic parishes of any diocese traditionally support the Church on three levels: 1. the local parish (e.g., the regular weekly collection), 2. the diocesan Church - providing services vital to every parish but which no single parish could support on its own (e.g., the annual Catholic Services Appeal, grants, and investment income), 3. the universal Church (e.g., special collections for World and National Concerns, the foreign missions/disaster relief, etc.).

The annual operating budget of the Diocese of Superior which is located in the 16 counties of northern Wisconsin, receives a large percentage of its annual support for important parish programs, services, and ministries in the form of the annual “fair share” assessment (e.g. CSA goal). The Catholic Services Appeal is the fundraising vehicle that assists parishes in raising their individual assessment/CSA goal. No parish could exist on its own without the programs, services, and ministries funded by the assessment/CSA goal.

The Diocese of Superior is unique in that its budget is not supported by an assessment in addition to the funds raised by the annual appeal. In the Diocese of Superior, the appeal helps raise the assessment funds. Also, unique is the fact that the parish receives a 100% rebate of any funds raised over their assessment/CSA goal.

The overall assessment/CSA goal is based on the Diocesan annual budget and recommended by the Diocesan Finance Council (made up of lay financial experts) and Presbyteral Council (made up of priests). Individual parish assessment/CSA goal is based on a formula that, in general, is a percentage of the parishes normal weekly collection.