

About the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal

Why is the Diocese of Erie conducting the Catholic Services Appeal?

Each year, the Bishop asks the faithful throughout the Diocese of Erie to support the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), the annual fundraising campaign of the diocese. Gifts to the CSA are put to work immediately to support the ministries and day-to-day programs of the Catholic Church in our diocese and are not invested or reserved for future use.

Why is my gift needed to support the work of the diocese?

As unique as each is, together our parishes make up our diocesan community. The CSA funds programs and ministries that are beyond the resources of any one parish. Every diocesan office and ministry supported by the CSA, such as the Catholic Schools Office, the Office of Faith Formation, Catholic Charities, and the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, are available to assist in every area of the diocese. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church. By joining together, we can accomplish more than any one parish can accomplish on its own.

But I already give to my parish, why also give to the CSA?

The ministry and programs of local parishes are very important. Diocesan leadership and expertise also play a role in our collective success. For example, parishes have access to resources and expertise in Catholic school administration, clergy support, social justice, diocesan wide evangelization, human resources, financial services, and facilities management through various offices at the diocesan level.

Are CSA funds used to pay legal fees or settlements from clergy sexual abuse?

No. The Catholic Services Appeal supports the mission of the Diocese of Erie to serve the people of northwest Pennsylvania. All CSA funds raised will be placed in a designated account and used exclusively and solely to support the programs and ministries of the diocese. No funds donated to the CSA have been or will be used to defray expenses related to clergy sexual misconduct issues.

How are parish goals calculated?

This year's total CSA goal of \$4,235,000 is prorated to each parish. A parish's goal is approximately 21 percent of its three-year average of taxable income.

What happens if my parish raises more than its goal?

If your parish collects funds beyond its diocesan goal, 100% of those funds are retained in the parish for its needs.

How can I make a gift?

Please pledge your support on Commitment Sunday, February 14, 2021. Pledge cards are available at your church.



The work of our church takes more than the efforts of one parish, one school or one ministry. Each diocesan office and ministry, supported by the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), is available to serve in every area of our sprawling diocese. Some of these offices oversee Catholic schools, faith formation, charitable agencies, and, quite importantly, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Gifts to the CSA are put to work immediately to support the ministries and day-to-day programs of the Catholic Church in our diocese and are not invested or reserved for future use. No funds donated to the CSA have been or will be used to defray expenses related to the sexual abuse scandal.

Those who give act as a bridge to help the diocese reach out to all of the various ministries, parishes and schools in northwest Pennsylvania. CSA contributions are the way by which the church provides resources, funding and hope to tens of thousands of Catholics in our region.

The diocese can't do this work alone. I saw this especially in 2020 when CSA funds and federal monies allowed the diocese to provide crucial assistance to parishes and schools as they faced the uncertainties created by the public health crisis.

Now, nearly a year after COVID-19 emerged, we continue to face challenges and bridge every obstacle. I humbly ask you to give to the CSA. Together we will find ways to bring Jesus to an ever-changing world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Prayer for the Catholic Services Appeal

Just one step

*Compassionate God,
your care for us is immeasurable.*

*You love us like the shepherd
who drops everything
to find the one lost sheep.*

*The good shepherd, like your Son Jesus,
is a model for us of care and concern
for others.*

*Help me to follow in Jesus' footsteps
and support the mission of your church
to evangelize, to educate, and to proclaim your word.*

*Help me support your church that serves others
through your sacraments of belonging, healing,
forgiving, blessing, and sending.*

Guide me to take just one step forward today:

One step, to care for those in need;

One step, to be aware of those who are hurting;

*One step, with my neighbors,
to save our block from violence;*

*One step, with my parish,
to reach out to those we've excluded;*

*One step toward Christ
in the face of the homeless person.*

*Lord God, help me to take
just one step forward today
with the baptized of the Diocese of Erie
to continue the work of Christ.
Amen.*

*Imprimatur, November 4, 2019
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie*



DIOCESE OF ERIE

FORWARD TOGETHER

2021
Catholic Services
Appeal

Support the Catholic Services Appeal

2021 GOAL \$4,235,000

PURPOSE

Funds raised through the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) help the Diocese of Erie fulfill its mission to evangelize, educate, serve, proclaim the word and celebrate the sacraments throughout 13 counties in northwest Pennsylvania.

The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church.

By joining together in support of the CSA, we can accomplish more than any one parish can accomplish on its own.

Support of the annual CSA is your faithful response as a member of the One, Holy Catholic, Apostolic Church. By making a gift to the CSA, you act with goodness to help build the church in northwest Pennsylvania.

Pastoral Services

The CSA supports the pastoral leadership that shepherds our church and provides ongoing education to priests and deacons. Other pastoral services providing expertise throughout the diocese include the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Education

Catholic schools have traditionally been the most effective way to pass on our faith to future generations. The Diocese of Erie, its parishes and Catholic institutions operate 20 elementary, 3 middle and 7 secondary schools. Lifelong faith formation initiatives throughout the diocese include youth and young adult ministry opportunities, family life outreach and support for parish-based faith formation efforts.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities agencies, ministries and programs respond to the call of the poor and promote a consistent life ethic. The Catholic Charities network of agencies and diocesan programs enable effective outreach and services far beyond what any one parish could provide alone.

Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania

CSA funds provide a grant to the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania. The Foundation is in service to all parishes, schools and Catholic ministries in the diocese helping to build our Catholic legacy through endowments. It also provides professional fund development services to the Diocese of Erie.

Communications

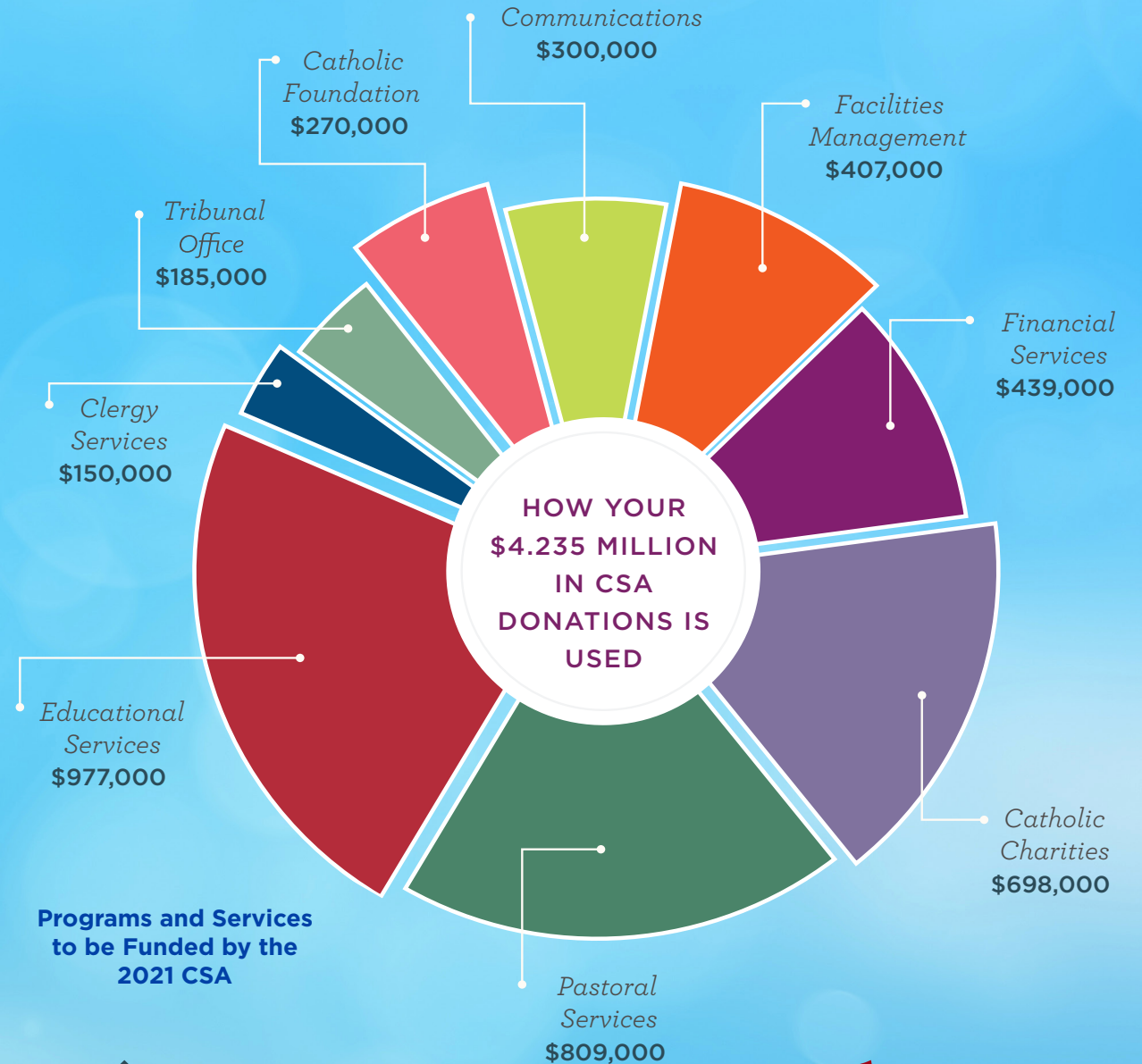
The diocesan communications office inspires and spreads the word throughout the diocese in many ways, including *Faith* magazine, the diocese's website, social media and e-news.

Facilities Management and Financial Services

Consultation on physical plant matters, safety issues and accident prevention, and environmental and regulatory compliance are available to pastors and parish staff through diocesan offices, as well as expertise on property and health insurances and financial services.

Tribunal Office

The Tribunal Office is a resource for persons seeking annulments.



Programs and Services to be Funded by the 2021 CSA

The CSA allows the diocese to support our many parishes, schools, clergy, lay ministers and tens of thousands of the faithful throughout the diocese.

105 active priests
37 retired priests



approximately
192,000
Catholics



COUNTLESS
people in
need

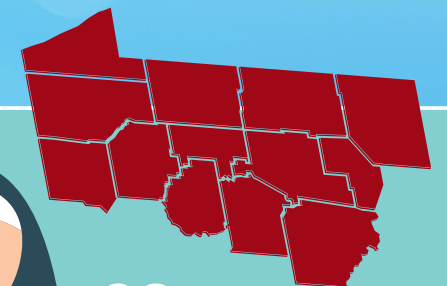


5,245 Catholic school
students (pre-K to 12) at
30 schools and **6,900**
faith formation students



72
permanent
deacons

213
women
religious



96 parishes in 13 counties