

# SAID ED October 1, 2017

## The CMA

Last week Fr. Sergio and Deacon Phil preached about the importance of the Catholic Ministries Appeal - the CMA. This important appeal from the bishop's office is the major funding source for the many ministries of the diocese. Every year the bishop asks all the households of the diocese to contribute to the many ministries that carry out the work of the Lord in the Diocese of Rochester. The CMA invites all Catholics of our diocese to join in a partnership to advance the mission of our Church. Indeed, the CMA is the life blood that nourishes our ministries and helps us share our faith with others.

This year our goal is \$228,221. This is an increase over last year and reflects the changing demographics of our parish and the diocese. I ask you to be especially generous when you respond to the Bishop's request. The needs are great and the pastoral care that these resources provide are essential for the running of our diocese and our parish.

People often ask how the benefits of the CMA affect us.

It's a good question and the answer is: In many ways! The largest of which is the support and encouragement that our parish receives as we carry on the Lord's ministry here at our local level. The CMA supports the education of our seminarians, deacon formation as well as the many financial and technological systems that support our parish life.

The CMA subsidizes the various agencies of the diocese that bring direct support to people in need; as well as to Catholic schools, Christian Formation Programs, Evangelization efforts, college Campus Ministries and many many more. There is no question in my mind that we "get our monies worth" – as if that were the sole value of the CMA. But, of course there is so much more to consider!

We belong to a communion of faith. The many families in the many parish communities of the 12 counties within the Diocese of Rochester join together in this effort to provide support and resources for ministry.

So, why should I give this year? I invite your generosity because it's a way of showing our support and participation in ministry of the Lord in our diocesan community. It's a way of showing our solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the 12 counties of our diocese. It's a way of giving so others can simply have what they need. It's a way of sharing our blessings with those who have less.

Every dollar received in the annual CMA is used to fund ministries affecting every Catholic and faith community in our diocese. The CMA goal for the diocese is \$6,550,000 this year. Be assured every dollar is carefully monitored and overseen by the Diocesan Stewardship Council. By now you have received your annual invitation to support the Catholic Ministry Appeal, please respond as soon and as generously as you can.

Thank you in advance for your support and collaboration.

Have a great week

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