



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 15, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (CSAF) has its annual appeal in early February. This year, the appeal was being launched just as we were hit by back-to-back weather events that severely affected Church attendance in many parts of the Archdiocese. As a result, the 2019 appeal got off to a challenging start, with the number of donors down by 4,300 and pledges down by \$800,000. That significant shortfall puts a number of our key Archdiocesan ministries at risk.

I write today to ask for your help to realize CSAF's goal and, more importantly, to allow us together as a Church to share the Easter mystery of the Risen Christ with others through the various ministries that CSAF funds. CSAF funding is critical to the life of this local Church by providing funding to the ministries that no one parish can support on their own.

While CSAF provides an important source of income for our schools, and Catholic Charities, and crucially funds the expenses related to room and board for our seminarians, I wanted to highlight, in particular, one key ministry that depends on CSAF: hospital ministry. The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation funds the cost of priests serving as hospital chaplains who are available at all times of the day and night to minister to the sick and dying and to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It's at such crucial life moments that support for the Catholic Services Appeal directly enables the compassion of the Risen Christ to be shared with those most in need.

I hope that you will join me in working together to bring this year's Appeal to a successful conclusion. Please utilize the envelopes provided in your pews.

With the promise of my best wishes and prayers for your families,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis