

Advancing the Mission of Christ – What Shall I Do, Lord?

My Dear Friends in Christ,

The theme of this year's Catholic Services Appeal, noted above, sounds a bit familiar to last year's CSA campaign "Advancing the Mission of Christ – Here I Am Lord." The similarity is more than coincidental. To truly answer our call to live as disciples in Christ, it is not enough to simply *be present*. We must take the next step to act. "What shall I do, Lord?"

The opportunities to "act" in the name of Jesus and the spirit of discipleship are countless. Among those opportunities are the many tangible activities in your own parish and throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. It is important to keep in mind that many of the diocesan programs, services and educational initiatives which lend assistance to parishes, organizations and individuals are supported, in part or in whole, by CSA funding.

Your gift to CSA provides an essential and necessary portion of revenue for these programs as well as the overall diocesan budget, always with the goal of advancing the mission of Christ among all those entrusted to our care. That mission very often goes beyond individual parishes to larger, diocesan events. One exciting example is the MYFaith experience held in August. This year will be our third MYFaith event. In each of the past two events, nearly 1,000 young people from around the Diocese came together to grow in their Catholic faith through fellowship, guest speakers, break-out sessions, music and prayer.

Each year, I personally contribute to the CSA and ask you to join me in making your own pledge to this annual appeal. The enclosed materials highlight a sampling of the programs and events supported by CSA. You may choose to make a pledge based on some calculation, for example one or two hours of pay per month or a percentage of your income; or you may decide on a set donation. Every pledge is important and greatly appreciated

Be assured of my prayers and sincere gratitude for your support of the work of our Church. Together we will continue to strive in our efforts to Advance the Mission of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bishop Cistone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Cistone
Bishop of Saginaw