



Parish Supplemental Manual

2020

**God has made every grace abundant for you
so you can glorify God through your generosity.**

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Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the Diocese of Saginaw through promotion of the Christ's Mission Appeal.

With a new name and time frame for the annual diocesan appeal, I hope that this appeal helps those throughout the Diocese to recognize God's generosity to them and, in return, help the mission of Jesus Christ continue in our own parishes and communities.

Included in the following pages are some resources for conducting the Christ's Mission Appeal in your parish. More information will be available through the diocesan website – www.saginaw.org – and throughout the appeal.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the appeal team with any questions or concerns. We are here to help!

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All the best,

Geri

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Prayer Resources

Christ's Mission Appeal 2020 Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to you in gratitude and thanksgiving because *you make every grace abundant for us*. This unmerited love is most evident in sending your Son, Jesus, into the world so that we may have life and have it in abundance. In this, you have given us an example of love and generosity to follow.

You have given your Holy Spirit in order to empower us to embrace our call to be intentional disciples of Jesus who joyfully, boldly and lovingly proclaim and live Christ's mission, each in our own life and our own way as part of your divine plan for our lives.

You enrich us each in every way for all generosity through your generous heart, opening us to deeper gratitude, deeper generosity and deeper joy.

Form our hearts to receive your many gifts gratefully so that through our response to Christ's Mission Appeal, you may be glorified through our generosity and the work of Christ continues across the Diocese of Saginaw.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

† Amen

Universal Prayers For Christ's Mission Appeal

The following are samples of petitions for use in the Prayers of the Faithful. Please use at least one Christ's Mission Appeal petition each weekend during the active phase of the campaign.

- That the Gospel message may be spread through our good deeds as we generosity support the Christ's Mission Appeal; we pray ...
- That the people of our parish prayerfully consider the many gifts they have received and respond generously to the Christ's Mission Appeal; we pray ...
- May our parish respond to the opportunity to reach beyond the boundaries of our parish in love and service through the Christ's Mission Appeal; we pray ...
- May our gifts to this year's Christ's Mission Appeal enable our Church to continue Christ's work in our community; we pray ...
- That those in need may find guidance and assistance from the many programs and services supported by the Christ's Mission Appeal; we pray ...
- For all people served by the Christ's Mission Appeal, and for greater understanding in how our parish can share our time, talent, and treasure with one another and those in need; we pray...
- For the Christ's Mission Appeal, that we may be filled with compassion and, in faith, serve our community through our gifts; we pray...
- For an abundant outpouring of gifts in support of our seminarians, ministry formation, family resources, Catholic schools, and the many other ways our Christ's Mission Appeal brings forth God's Kingdom today, we pray...
- That as we are called to support the ministries of our church through the Christ's Mission Appeal, we resolve to practice our faith in this very practical, meaningful way, we pray...
- That each one of us will seriously consider how we can join in reaching out to the needs of others through our support of the Christ's Mission Appeal; we pray...

Conducting the Appeal

Roles and Responsibilities

The most successful diocesan annual appeals at the parish level are those in which parish staff and others in the parish community are engaged in the purpose of an appeal and are strong in delivering messages.

Parish leaders may opt to have both staff and parishioners on their Christ's Mission Appeal teams; however, this is not mandatory.

If you do have both parish staff and parishioners on your Christ's Mission Appeal team, the following are suggestions of how to share responsibilities.

Responsibilities of the Pastor/Director of Parish Life

The pastor/director of parish life is the key leader in the parish. No program can hope to succeed without support and positive leadership from the top. No matter how capable others assisting with the Christ's Mission Appeal may be, they take their cue from the pastor/director of parish life.

The pastor/ director of parish life sets the tone for the motivation and success of a project such as Christ's Mission Appeal. Parishioners respond to their priest/director of parish life's enthusiasm, leadership, and confidence. The pastor/director of parish life must be committed to and actively follow the Appeal plan and provide spiritual guidance and teaching.

The roles and responsibilities of pastors/director of parish life within each individual parish will vary, but will most likely include:

- Recruit a knowledgeable, organized, and responsible individual to accept the leadership role as the Christ's Mission Appeal chairperson and the role of the Secretary for the Appeal
- Provide leadership to lay volunteers who are part of the Appeal.
- A pastor/director of parish life should make his/her own personal pledge commitment to the Appeal before asking others to give. Communication about this pledge is powerful as it reflects the parish leadership's belief in the Appeal.
- Promote the Appeal positively from the pulpit and at parish meetings, using a stewardship orientation towards making a gift to the Christ's Mission Appeal in gratitude for God's many gifts and blessings. Explanations of how Appeal-supported programs help individuals and parish activities also are key.
- Discuss the needs, reasons, and expectations of the Appeal at all Masses.
- Offer occasional encouragement on the importance of fulfilling their Christ's Mission Appeal pledge in a timely manner.

Responsibilities of the Parish Chairperson

The Christ's Mission Appeal chairperson serves as the spokesperson for the Appeal. He/she is an important partner in communicating the message of the Appeal to the congregation.

If a parish stewardship commission exists, it is recommended that the Christ's Mission Appeal chairperson should be a member. A consistent message of stewardship will enhance not only the Appeal, but also gifts to the parish of time, talent, and financial resources.

The two primary responsibilities of the chairperson are, 1) to build excitement and enthusiasm for the Appeal, and 2) to implement strategies designed to encourage gifts.

The responsibilities of the chairperson include:

- Building a strong, faith-filled parish Christ's Mission Appeal team is essential to a successful Appeal effort. The team should include dedicated parishioners who have histories of stewardship toward the parish, are involved in parish life, and are committed to seeing the parish succeed.
- Contributing the integrity of his/her name and position to the Appeal. He/she works closely with the pastor/director of parish life to coordinate parish Christ's Mission Appeal efforts and serves as the motivator of the Appeal team. The chair sets the tone of high expectations and serves as a spokesperson for the Appeal.
- Speaking at Masses and to parish groups to promote the Appeal, if requested.
- Familiarizing himself/herself with printed Christ's Mission Appeal materials, especially the list of ministries funded by the Appeal.
- Making a pledge to the Appeal before asking anyone else to do so, thus, promoting support for Christ's Mission Appeal among parishioners.

Responsibilities of Parish Staff

Parish receptionists and secretaries often receive the calls about Christ's Mission Appeal and therefore, are important partners in all efforts to communicate the Appeal's message. Parish receptionists, secretaries, pastors/directors of parish life, and Appeal chairpersons all need to work together to ensure that everyone has Appeal information.

The Appeal Secretary plays a critical role in the Appeal since she/he has great working knowledge of the parish. The Appeal Secretary must keep accurate, confidential records of gifts to the Appeal and needs access to an accurate parish roster in order to update any changes that occur during the Appeal.

The Appeal Secretary is asked to ensure that the following tasks are completed:

- Keep parish stats up to date. The best way to keep lists current is to send changes, as requested by the diocese, on a regular basis so that the GlobaFile list is current. Regular updates will ensure that the contact information used by the diocese is current and reliable.
- Send all completed pledge cards and payments to the diocese following procedures as outline in the Transmittal Manual
- Work with the pastor/director of parish life to assure the Appeal is promoted in bulletins, website, etc.

Promoting the Christ's Mission Appeal

Play the CD and/or video – The 2020 CD and video features a message from Bishop Gruss and an overview of some of the many services and ministries supported by the Christ's Mission Appeal.

Make the case for support – Review the manuals and brochure. In writing and talking about Christ's Mission Appeal, share how any of these ministries have affected you personally or how your parishioners have benefited. The more you personalize the appeal through real life examples, the more informed parishioners are about the Appeal -- and the more motivated they will be to give.

Demonstrate values – Christ's Mission Appeal funds ministries and programs that many parishes cannot provide on their own due to limited financial resources or expertise. Some examples include forming seminarians, assessing schools to help them achieve academic excellence and accreditation, and training parish bookkeepers and catechists to be effective in their work/ministry. Let your parishioners know that these services are provided at no charge to parishes and the benefit that's derived from them.

Localize and personalize – Compile information about your parish's utilization of Christ's Mission Appeal-funded diocesan services and resources throughout the year – not just during the Appeal - such as: parish council, committee or trustee training resource materials and support; parish offertory or budgeting assistance; guidance regarding music and liturgical ministry to strengthen the parish's worship experience; or the welcoming of a newly ordained deacon or priest that benefited from a seminary education.

Lead by example – Your personal example of stewardship and financial support to Christ's Mission Appeal speaks volumes.

Use Christ's Mission Appeal Bulletin Inserts – Parishioners will contribute to Christ's Mission Appeal when they understand the ways it helps fellow Catholics throughout the diocese. The bulletin inserts/materials included are intended to provide more detailed information and personal testimonials on some of the ministries that touch the lives of people throughout the diocese.

Communications Materials

Christ's Mission Appeal Bulletin Announcements

You may wish to add a line to the end of any of these messages such as:

- Christ's Mission Appeal helps make this service possible. Thank you for your gift.
 - Your gifts to the Christ's Mission Appeal make these ministries possible.
 - This ministry and others are made possible through your gifts to the Christ's Mission Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.
1. Your support of the Christ's Mission Appeal helps to support the training of lay ministers who serve in parishes throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. Education for this important ministry includes four years of theology and faith formation. Nearly 400 people, including <names of lay ministers> from our parish serve individual churches and communities as lay ministers.
 2. When months for harvesting crops in our region approach, migrant workers travel to our communities to work in the fields. Christ's Mission Appeal funds programs through the Office of Hispanic Ministries to help to bring faith formation and the sacraments to our Catholic brothers and sisters who labor on our farms.
 3. Christ's Mission Appeal helps fund many faith offerings and retreats available to the people of our parishes to help them grow as disciples. In addition, the diocesan Faith Formation Office supports leaders in parishes who provide youth ministry and adult faith formation.
 4. Your support of the Christ's Mission Appeal helps to bring healing to the divorced. The staff of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Saginaw trains volunteers known as "advocates" to work with people who have experienced a divorce and who want to obtain a declaration of nullity. Christ's Mission Appeal helps make this service possible. Thank you for your gift.
 5. Central Michigan University and Saginaw Valley State University have strong campus ministry programs that are made possible through your gifts to Christ's Mission Appeal. The priests and volunteers ministering on college campuses are continually working to make the Catholic faith available to students in dynamic ways. Vibrant liturgies, involving students in ministerial leadership positions, lively discussions that focus on the teachings of the church, travel to conferences, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and spiritual retreats such as Kononia, (which means "community") are offered twice per year. These are samples of the many ways students are called to prayer and a deepening of their faith through campus ministry programs.
 6. The FAITH Saginaw magazine will be increasing to six issues a year -- mailed to all parishioners of the Diocese of Saginaw. The magazine shares inspirational stories and educational articles and reports special events throughout the diocese. Your gifts to Christ's Mission Appeal help to make this publication possible. The magazine is created by the Office of Communication, which is funded in part by the Christ's Mission Appeal.

7. Your gifts to Christ's Mission Appeal allow the Vicar General to serve the 56 parishes of the Diocese. He works closely with pastors and pastoral administrators to help ensure that parish reorganizations are proceeding according to plans. He also connects parishes with diocesan offices and services when a specific parish need is identified. The services of the Vicar General are one of the many ministries offered through the office of the Bishop made possible by your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal.
8. There are a growing variety of addictions that can lead to the deterioration of relationships and marriages. They include: gambling, working too many hours, over involvement with computers, texting and other technology, pornography, drug, alcohol and food addictions, just to name a few. Counseling at Catholic Family Service can help with these issues. Your gifts to Christ's Mission Appeal result in a subsidy to Catholic Family Service to offer these services.
9. After the March for Life in Washington D.C., the young people of our diocese who attend take part in a night of formation where they learn more about the various aspects of abortion and the importance of developing a Respect Life culture. March for Life, which is coordinated by the Offices of the Bishop, Christian Service, and Youth Ministry, is a powerful experience for our young people. Your gifts to the Christ's Mission Appeal help make this strong Respect Life experience possible as well as help fund a local March for Life.

Pulpit Announcements

The following are ideas you can use for communicating the message of the Christ's Mission Appeal to your parishioners:

- By now, you should have received a letter from Bishop Gruss asking for your generous support of the Christ's Mission Appeal. Please give prayerful consideration to how you will respond by filling out the pledge card and returning it to Church on [DATE - this is the date of the Commitment Weekend you have chosen.]
- Please be generous to the Christ's Mission Appeal by sharing your gifts and blessings. Your contribution to Christ's Mission Appeal is a way of serving our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese and continuing the saving work begun by Jesus.
- As we look at our lives and the many ways God has blessed us, let us give back a proportionate gift to the Christ's Mission Appeal as a way of saying thank you to God. God will never be outdone in generosity.
- Your gift to the Christ's Mission Appeal is used for educational, vocational, and Christian Service outreach. Thousands of people depend on your generosity.
- We are now one month into the Christ's Mission Appeal and as of today _____ # _____ of our parishioners have contributed. We need each of you to help us reach our parish assessment of \$_____.
- Just a reminder: If you have not yet made your pledge to the Christ's Mission Appeal, please consider doing so this week. As good stewards, we are called to share our gifts. Please be generous.