



# Parish Resource Manual 2021

**Stewardship and Development Office**  
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“Give to the Most High as He has given to you,  
generously, according to your means.” ~ Sirach 35:9

Hello,

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

This manual includes some materials that you can use for announcements and updates for bulletins, your website, social media, etc. Please feel free to use these as they are or edit them to best fit your parish culture.

You also can find additional resources, including videos, on the diocesan website at [www.saginaw.org/appeal](http://www.saginaw.org/appeal)

Do not hesitate to contact anyone on the appeal team if you have concerns or questions.

For items referring to materials or communications about the appeal, please contact the Stewardship and Development Department at 989-797-6656 or [development@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:development@dioceseofsaginaw.org)

For matters about appeal payments or parish transmittals, please contact the Finance Department at 989-797-6626 or [lbaerwolf@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:lbaerwolf@dioceseofsaginaw.org)

### **Christ's Mission Appeal 2021 Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

You continue to bless and sustain us through these times of uncertainty. We thank you for the generous gifts that you have given to each of us.

Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, through His life and message ~ the Gospel ~ teaches us the way through which we move to You in order to find joy in this uncertain life.

Bless Christ's Mission Appeal and all the ministries that the appeal supports.

May your Holy Spirit guide us to a generous response for our diocese and our community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

## **Promoting Christ's Mission Appeal**

You are welcome to use any of the tools and suggestions in this manual or on the dedicated page on the diocesan website [www.saginaw.org/appeal](http://www.saginaw.org/appeal) to assist you in communicating to your parishioners about Christ's Mission Appeal 2021.

**Play the video and/or audio message** – The 2021 video (which can be used just playing the audio) features a message from Bishop Gruss and overviews of a few of the many services and ministries supported by Christ's Mission Appeal.

**Make the case for support** – In writing and talking about Christ's Mission Appeal, share how any of the ministries supported by the appeal affect you personally or how your parishioners benefit. The more you personalize the appeal, the more informed parishioners are and the more they are motivated to support it.

**Demonstrate value to your parish** – The ministries and programs that Christ's Mission Appeal supports would be difficult or impossible for any parish to do on its own. Some examples of this include: formation and education of seminarians; assessing schools to help them achieve academic excellence and accreditation; training of parish bookkeepers and catechists to be effective in their work/ministries.

**Personalize and localize** – Compile information about your parish's utilization of Christ's Mission Appeal-funded services and resources throughout the year. These things might include: parish offertory or budgeting assistance; guidance regarding music and liturgical ministry to strengthen the parish's worship experience; welcoming a newly ordained deacon or priest who benefited from formation or seminary education.

**Lead by example** – Your personal example of stewardship and financial support to Christ's Mission Appeal sets the tone for your parishioners.

**Use Christ's Mission Appeal bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements and universal prayers** – These items are intended to provide more details about how the ministries supported by Christ's Mission Appeal touch the lives of people throughout the diocese.

## **Pulpit Announcements**

Feel free to use these below pulpit announcement (or parts of them) to aid in communicating about Christ's Mission Appeal.

- By now you should have received a letter from Bishop Gruss and a brochure and pledge card about this year's Christ's Mission Appeal. Please give careful consideration how you will respond and fill out the pledge card and return it to the Diocese of Saginaw or put it in the collection basket. Remember that checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Saginaw, not the parish. You can also give online by going to the Diocese website at [www.saginaw.org](http://www.saginaw.org)
- Remember, this year's Christ's Mission Appeal is underway. If you have already made a pledge or donation, thank you for your quick response to this appeal. If you have not, please consider a gift of some amount. Your contribution to Christ's Mission Appeal is a way of serving our brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese.
- We are now one month (or whatever time span) into the Christ's Mission Appeal and as of today (number of parishioners) have contributed. We need each of you to help us reach our parish assessment of \$whatever is your assessment.
- This is just a reminder. If you have not made your pledge or contribution yet to Christ's Mission Appeal, *please consider doing so this week*. As good stewards, we are called to share the gifts that God has given to us. Please be generous.

## **Universal Prayers**

The following are samples of petitions for use during the active phase of Christ's Mission Appeal. Please consider using a petition each weekend during the early parts of the campaign and periodically as your parish gets closer to its assessed goal.

- That the faithful of our parish prayerfully consider the many gifts they have received and respond generously to Christ's Mission Appeal, we pray ...
- May the members of **your parish** respond to the opportunity to reach beyond the boundaries of our parish in love and service through 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 and beyond, we pray ...
- For 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 that Christ's Mission Appeal brings forth God's kingdom today, we pray ...
- That each of us will seriously consider how we can join in reaching out to the needs of others through our support of Christ's Mission Appeal, we pray ...

## **Bulletin Blurbs**

The following are samples of pieces for bulletins during the active phase of Christ's Mission Appeal. Please consider highlighting a ministry supported by the appeal each weekend during the early parts of the campaign and periodically as your parish gets closer to its assessed goal.

- Your support of 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 in your parish) from our parish, serve individual parishes and communities as lay ministers.

Your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal helps make this training and formation possible.

- Your support of 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. Your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal helps make this service possible.
- Stories about people throughout the Diocese of Saginaw sharing the love of Christ are published six times a year in Faith Saginaw magazine. The publication, which is delivered free of charge to every registered Catholic household in the Diocese, combines features about local individuals and groups as well as guest columnists and information about events.

Your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal supports the production and distribution of Faith Saginaw.

- Your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal allows the diocesan Vicar General to serve the 56 parishes of the Diocese of Saginaw. He works closely with pastors, pastoral administrators and other parish leaders regarding large-scale projects or if 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.

- Mental health issues, stress, addictions, trauma and other emotional factors can lead to the deterioration of relationships and marriages. People from throughout the Diocese of Saginaw can access counseling and other services through Catholic Family Services. Your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal results in a subsidy to Catholic Family Services to provide these services.

- Keeping young people engaged in their faith and growing in understanding are important parts of strong campus ministry programs at Central Michigan University and Saginaw Valley State University. Priests and volunteers ministering on college campuses are continually working to make the Catholic faith available to students in dynamic ways, such as vibrant liturgies, involving students in ministerial leadership positions and lively discussions that focus on the teachings of the church.

This ministry and others are made possible through your gift to Christ's Mission Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.