



Christ's Mission
APPEAL



“Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, according to your means. For the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold.”

Sirach 35:9-10



**A message
from Bishop Gruss.....**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges this past year. But through it all, I have been inspired by the resiliency of the people, the ministry of Jesus Christ which has taken place across the Diocese of Saginaw, and how so many have reached out in service to others.

Christ's Mission Appeal is an important way in which every Catholic family can serve one another in a sacrificial way. All gifts, large or small, touch the lives of the people we serve here in our diocese. Your sacrificial support is important to us, deeply valued and necessary for the Lord's work to continue and grow.

Please prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance regarding what he is asking of you in light of this year's appeal. Trusting that “the Lord is one who always repays,” your financial support and your prayers for the 2021 Christ's Mission Appeal are essential in carrying forward the Gospel in the Diocese of Saginaw. God's blessings and peace to you and your families!

+ Robert D. Gruss

Christ's Mission Appeal is the primary opportunity for Catholics throughout the Diocese of Saginaw to support and sustain programs that would not otherwise be possible through one individual or parish. Your generosity to this appeal allows the local Church to carry out the work of Jesus Christ throughout the Diocese.



Fr. Craig Carolan, parochial administrator at Annunciation of the Lord Parish in Port Austin, Fr. Christopher Coman, pastor at St. Christopher Parish in Caro and Fr. Pat O'Connor, associate director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy, and Bishop Gruss process into a Mass and celebration of rural life held in July 2021.

Food for the journey ...

From outreach to migrant families who work in fields throughout mid-Michigan to livestreamed and televised liturgies, Christ's Mission Appeal dollars are at work. Each year, the diocesan Office of Multicultural Affairs provides services such as food and clothing collections, faith formation and special Masses to those seasonal workers who spend planting and harvest seasons in the region.

Even before the global pandemic, the Diocese of Saginaw was regularly livestreaming Masses from the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption. However, shutdowns and restrictions due to COVID-19 meant that even fewer people were able to attend Eucharist, so

now daily as well as Sunday Masses are livestreamed – giving those who are unable to attend Mass in-person due to medical conditions or those who are uncomfortable with numbers of people – a chance to participate in the liturgy and make a “Spiritual Communion.”

The Mass also is available live on closed circuit television at Ascension St. Mary's hospital. Easter Day Mass in 2021 was broadcast live on WNEM-TV 5, funded in-part by Christ's Mission Appeal. (Christmas Day Mass in 2020 was broadcast on live TV thanks to a generous gift from Jolt Credit Union.)



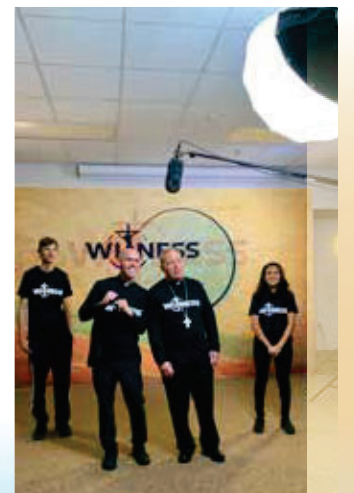
Maria Gloria Miranda serves up dinner and friendly hospitality after a Mass especially for migrant families who work at many mid-Michigan farms.

Where two or more are gathered ...

During the past year, the Diocese of Saginaw held events ranging from a celebration in a farmer's barn to an online worship and evangelization program for teens and young adults.

Largely organized by Fr. Stephen Blaxton, the parochial administrator of Holy Family Parish in Sandusky, with food provided by a local Knights of Columbus chapter, Bishop Gruss presided at a Mass in July 2021 in the “Thumb” region. The liturgy, along with a program, supported rural living and highlighted the importance of Catholic culture in rural communities.

Utilizing new ways to reach large groups, the Diocese held an online youth event called Witness in November 2020. Nearly 3,000 viewers watched the event on the night of its airing or in the following days. High school students from diocesan parishes provided praise music and served as co-emcees with Bishop Gruss and Fr. Adam Maher.



Nouvel Catholic Central High School students Billy Buchalski and Jessenia Olascuaga join Fr. Adam Maher and Bishop Gruss to co-host the Witness virtual event for youth and young adults. Fr. Adam is the chaplain at Nouvel Catholic Central, the campus minister at Saginaw Valley State University and the diocesan assistant vocations director.



Deacon Librado (Larry) Gayton, director of the diocesan Office of Multicultural Affairs, laughs with some of the faithful who participated in a migrant Mass (Misa con los Campesinos) at Our Lady Consolata – St. Agatha Church, in Gagetown in summer 2021.



A student at All Saints Elementary School in Bay City receives a blessing during an outdoor Mass and May crowning. Students brought flowering plants to be placed around a statue of the Blessed Mother.

*“... take these words of mine into your heart and soul:
Teach them to your children...”*

The appeal helps to provide enrichment for teachers and administrators in our 12 Catholic schools and support of faith formation programs at parishes. Funding from Christ’s Mission Appeal, coupled with the generosity of a private donor, has provided “Welcome Scholarships” to more than 300 students in the past few years.

Appeal funds also help to provide training for parish volunteers who guide hundreds of children and adults who are in preparation to join the Church.

Christ’s Mission Appeal also helps to fund Faith Saginaw magazine. The publication, which features stories about people within the Diocese of Saginaw who are living their Catholic faith by evangelizing and performing corporal works of mercy as well as columns from regional and national Church leaders, is published six times annually and sent to nearly 28,000 families.

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel...

Christ’s Mission Appeal also helps to provide education and formation for religious and lay leaders for the Diocese. This past year, the Diocese celebrated the ordination to the priesthood of Fr. Kevin Wojciechowski and to the permanent diaconate of four men.

Every year, a new group of faithful from across the Diocese enroll in a four-year program of practical, spiritual and theological training to become commissioned lay ministers. The nearly 400 lay ministers



Alan Wright, from St. Michael Parish in Maple Grove, Andrew Waligorski, from Holy Family Parish in Sandusky, Dale Sisson from Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Saginaw and Jacob Huysentruyt from Holy Family Parish in Sandusky at their ordination as permanent deacons.

currently in the Diocese serve in a variety of capacities in their parishes. Their roles vary from assisting with liturgies to outreach to parishioners.

Every year for the past several years, more than 800 people have been baptized and nearly 1,800 faithful have received First Communion and Confirmation throughout the Diocese.



Bishop Gross presides at the live, televised Easter Sunday Mass in 2021.



Bishop Gross fist bumps a boy during the Rite of Election, held in February at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption.



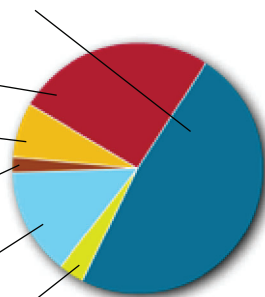
Lisa Seeley, principal at St. Mary's School in Alma, at the school's main doors where student-made banners add to the sense of welcome for visitors.

Financials

(Three Fiscal Year Average 2019-2021)

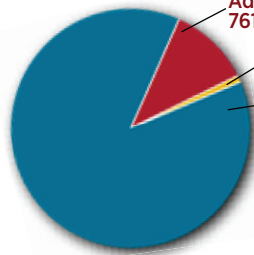
Income

Christ's Mission Appeal 3.7m 48.7%
 Other 1.9m 25.2%
 Rentals and Service 530k 7%
 Workshops 152k 2%
 Interest and Investment Income 1m 13.8%
 Contributions 247k 3.3%



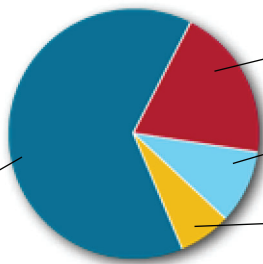
Expenses

Administration 761k 11.1%
 Fundraising 63k .09%
 Programs 6m 88%



Major areas of ministry and outreach

Parish Support 4.4m 63.9%



Education, faith formation and vocations 1.4m 19.8%

Communications and community outreach 653k 9.5%

Support for the broader Church 464k 6.7%

What Christ's Mission Appeal Does Not Support

Christ's Mission Appeal contributions are not used and will never be used for the legal defense of clergy accused of sexual abuse.

GOAL \$3,693,000 - This goal has not changed in 14 years

Ways to Give

Secure Online:

www.saginaw.org/appeal

Click on the "Donate Now" button

This will direct you to options for making secure monthly installments or a one-time gift using a credit/debit card or a bank account number.

By Mail:

Please complete the pledge card that is included in your Christ's Mission Appeal mailing and return it in the envelope provided. Please return the pledge card to the Diocese of Saginaw.

In Person:

You also may return the pledge card to your parish office or the Chancery Office, or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

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