

Frequently Asked Questions

About the new Cathedraticum, Catholic Ministry Appeal and the retirement of APA



1. What are the changes being made?

We are changing the way the Diocese funds ministries and shared expenses. Starting in 2022, diocesan leadership provided through the Office of the Bishop, Chancellor and Vicar General necessary for shepherding our local church will be funded through a Cathedraticum tax equal to 2% of parish offertory and donations less school support. Diocesan ministries will be funded through a new, voluntary “**Catholic Ministry Appeal**,” and the former “Annual Pastoral Appeal” (APA) will no longer take place. Administrative functions that serve our parishes, schools and ministries such as Human Resources, Accounting and IT will be supported through earnings from a trust.

This formula – a reduced Cathedraticum tax to fund leadership combined with a fundraising appeal focused entirely on ministries and services – is already successfully utilized by more than 100 dioceses across the country.

2. Why are we making these changes?

Bishop Parkes, diocesan leadership and a task force of experienced pastors studied the Annual Pastoral Appeal and the process by which we fund our shared expenses. They listened to feedback from pastors, parish staff and lay leaders from across the Diocese.

After much consultation and review, the task force voted unanimously to implement this new financial structure for our parishes, donors and the Diocese. It lessens the financial burden on parishes, allows 100% of donor contributions to go toward ministries instead of administration costs, increases accountability and reduces confusion. We will continue to provide full transparency.

3. How will this impact my parish?

After this year, there will be no more Annual Pastoral Appeal. Instead, there will be a small tax on parish offertory used to fund diocesan leadership expenses, and a new **Catholic Ministry Appeal** that will fund ministries across the Diocese.

Parishes will be expected to participate in the **Catholic Ministry Appeal** by following the timeline, promoting the appeal to parishioners and conducting a robust in-pew appeal at the appropriate time. *If a parish does those things, there will be no assessment for ministry if the parish does not achieve its goal for the Catholic Ministry Appeal.*

The Cathedraticum tax will be calculated and submitted by the parish each month based on their financial statements. This means taxes will be based on current income, not past income. This process will begin with the new fiscal year in July 2022.

4. How will this impact my parishioners?

All parishioners will be invited in various ways to participate and contribute to the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. Here’s the good news: one hundred percent (100%) of their donations will go to fund the ministries and services they care most about – no charitable dollars will be used to fund

general diocesan administration expenses. They will have the ultimate choice in giving to support vital ministries of the larger church, with no obligation to give to assist their parish in paying taxes.

5. Will APA still be called APA?

The name “Annual Pastoral Appeal” or “APA” will be retired on December 31, 2021. In January 2022, we will roll-out a new appeal called the “**Catholic Ministry Appeal**” with a more focused case for support that does not include administrative expenses.

6. What will be funded through the new Catholic Ministry Appeal?

The new appeal will fund shared Catholic ministries and services that no single parish could accomplish on its own. Some of these include Catholic Charities, vocation promotion, seminarian support, campus ministry efforts and the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute.

7. When will the new appeal start?

The new appeal will start in January of 2022, though we will communicate often with pastors, staff, lay leaders and donors throughout the second half of 2021 to prepare them for the transition and introduce them to the new **Catholic Ministry Appeal**.

8. When will the new Cathedraticum tax start?

This will start July 2022.

9. How will the new Cathedraticum tax be implemented?

The Cathedraticum tax will be calculated and submitted by the parish each month based on their reported offertory and donations less school support of up to \$100,000 annually. This means taxes will be based on current income, not past income. This process will begin with the new fiscal year in July 2022.

10. What happens if my parish doesn't reach its goal for the appeal?

Every pastor is expected to put forth his “best effort” toward the new **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. This includes following the timeline provided by the diocesan Stewardship and Development Office, promoting the appeal to parishioners and conducting a well-organized and robust in-pew appeal at the appropriate times. If a parish does those things but does not achieve its goal for the appeal, it will not be responsible for paying for the shortfall.

Bishop Parkes has the utmost confidence that our priests and parish staff will put forth their best efforts to promote the new appeal to parishioners and invite them to help support our shared Catholic ministries and services.

11. What happens if the overall appeal doesn't reach its goal?

All diocesan ministries and services will live within the budget of what is contributed each year to the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. The more successful the appeal, the more ministries and services we can provide to our Catholic families and those most in need in our diocese. If the new Catholic Ministry Appeal falls short of its goal, there will be less funds to provide ministries and services. We don't believe this will happen – with a parish best effort and strong, informative communication provided to our donors showing the impact of their gifts, we believe the new **Catholic Ministry Appeal** will be successful.