

Case Summary – Catholic Ministry Appeal

History

For more than 20 years, the entire net budget for the Pastoral Center of our diocese was the overall goal for the now retired Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA) broken up into individual parish goals. While APA funded the organization and implementation of diocesan ministry, programs and services it also included funding for the administrative and business functions needed to operate them and offer similar services for parishes and schools who needed assistance in those areas. These types of leadership/administrative/business services include accounting, finance, tech support, human resources, and the Office of the Bishop.

While leadership costs and support services are important and vital, and they have been needed greatly by those they serve, over the years some pastors, parish staff and donors shared that they would prefer to support only ministry, program and outreach service with their annual contribution. They also expressed the formula for calculating a parish's goal was confusing and that if a parish did not achieve their goal through parishioner contributions, then a parish ended up having to pay the balance. Over the years, this was talked about openly as a tax and an obligation, many pastors and parish staff shared the goal was unattainable, and a very heavy burden when it had to be paid.

In 2022 the old APA model was dismantled and the new *Catholic Ministry Appeal* model was established.

Moving Forward – More Than a Name Change

The plan for our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* centers around how the functions of our Pastoral Center are ultimately funded. This plan was created in partnership with a team of pastors and is both creative and innovative. The Appeal Task Force, a committee of priests and diocesan leaders, extensively studied our annual fundraising efforts and recommended a change to how we support critical ministries in our diocese.

After months of discussion and discernment, they came to a unanimous decision to start over with the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. The new appeal is simpler, and it allows donors to know exactly where gifts are going.

Below are the main components for funding the work of our diocesan Church:

- 1) The leadership and administrative/business costs are not included as part of the appeal to our parishioners. Instead, Leadership and those offices working with Bishop Parkes to guide our diocese will be funded through a 2% tax on a very simplified revenue total. Administration and business functions will be funded through earnings of our savings and loan.
- 2) The *Catholic Ministry Appeal* will attempt to raise direct funds to support our traditional ministry, programs and outreach affecting people, communities, parishes and schools such as Formation, Worship, pastoral outreach and Service, discipleship and vocations. Therefore, 100% of every donation will be going toward the larger ministries of our diocese.
- 3) If a parish does not reach goal, they do not pay the balance. Each parish completes a best effort, sharing how much impact we have thanks to our people, and let our ministries grow and expand as the support from our people allows.
- 4) Donors can direct their donation to ministry areas they wish to support.

Ministries, Programs and Services Funded by the Catholic Ministry Appeal

Encountering God and Nurturing Our Spiritual Life - \$3.87 million (43% of the total *Catholic Ministry Appeal* goal)

It is through sharing the faith and reaching out to others we encounter the face of God. These ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg assist parishes and offer all who seek God an opportunity to encounter Him and enrich our spiritual lives, fostering our response to God's call to serve.

- + Bethany Center for Spiritual & Formation Development
- + Faith Formation & Evangelization
- + Lay Pastoral Ministry Formation Program
- + Marriage & Family Life
- + Media-Based Communication Ministry
- + Ministry to Catholic Schools & Tuition Assistance Grants
- + Ministry to Multicultural Communities
- + Ministry to Youth & Young Adults
- + Office of Worship & Diocesan Liturgical Celebrations
- + Support of The Catholic University
- + Tribunal Office for Canonical Information & Sacramental Support

Embracing God's Call to Serve - \$2.79 million (31% of the total *Catholic Ministry Appeal* goal)

To embrace God's call to serve means to hear His call and actively carry out His mission and ministry with love, gratitude and concern for others. Action, like a sacrament, is the visible form of the Holy Spirit. These ministries of our diocese encourage all to act, expressing God's saving love within us as we help give shape to the world. Diaconate Program & Formation

- + Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg
- + Diaconate Program & Formation
- + La Clinica Guadalupeana Support
- + Prison Ministry
- + Seminarian Education & Support, & Promotion of Vocations
- + Vicar for Religious

Accompanying Our Missionary Disciples - \$2.34 million (26% of the total *Catholic Ministry Appeal* goal)

It is vital that we accompany those who are instrumental in the formation of the faithful as "Missionary Disciples," serving as living witnesses to Christ's message and love and serving those most in need. These ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg serve our priests, deacons, and lay leaders in their pastoral journey so they may continue offering our people the formation and foundation needed to bring God's message, mission, and ministry to our faith communities and world.

- + Clergy Care, Ministry to Priests & Continuing Education for Priests
- + Haitian Apostolate & the St. Rita, St. Joseph-Tampa & St. Clement Migrant Apostolates
- + Justice, Life & Advocacy Promotion & Formation
- + Safe Environment Program
- + Stewardship Formation & Development Programs
- + Support for Shrines in the Holy Land & Churches in Latin America
- + St. John XXIII Retirement Center
- + Eucharistic Encounter, Eucharistic Revival, Parish Leadership Development & Mission Advancement Initiatives