



Diocese of Joliet
Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal

DEVOTED
to the works of the

Lord

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us of how Christ, through His Resurrection, ensured that we, too, will rise again on the Last Day.

How can we ever repay the Lord for this ultimate sacrifice?

Again, we look to St. Paul, who offers guidance: "Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Cor 15:58). This verse not only illustrates our theme for the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), *Devoted to the Works of the Lord*, but also our mission as a diocese.

Every day across the Diocese of Joliet, Catholic schools and parishes form children in the faith, men and women receive guidance discerning calls to the priesthood and religious life, and Catholic Charities serves people in need.

These important works of the Lord would not be possible without your gifts to the CMAA and the many ministries and programs they support.

As we launch this year's annual appeal, please take a moment to read about some of the many works of the Lord we are able to undertake because of your continued devotion to the Church. I also invite you to visit our website at jolietdioceseappeal.org to learn more about the impact of the CMAA in our communities and pledge your support.

Peace,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

Through our support of the
Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal,
we are devoted to the works of the

Lord



**The CMAA supports ministries and
programs essential to the mission of the Diocese of Joliet.**

When we join together as a community of faith, we can do so much for so many, such as providing food and shelter to our brothers and sisters in need, encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and educating the next generation in our faith.

Please take a moment to read about the works of the Lord made possible in our diocese because of the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal.

Catholic schools prepare young people 'to be servers of the Lord'



For Esmeralda Elvir, teaching at a Catholic school is more than a job. It is her vocation, as well as a service to her community.

"We are preparing young people to become good citizens overall, to be servers of the Lord," said Esmeralda, who is an assistant principal and fourth grade teacher at Bishop McNamara Catholic School's Bradley site.

A longtime catechist before deciding to pursue a teaching degree, she continually seeks ways to embed the Gospel in every subject she teaches, not just during traditional religion classes. This goal — to nourish her students' souls as well as their minds — is one shared throughout the Diocese of Joliet's Catholic school system.

The member of St. John Paul II Parish in Kankakee also strives to treat every child with respect and dignity.

"I hope that in the future, my students remember me as someone who treated them just as Jesus would have," she said. "Everyone's welcome into my classroom. Everyone's cared for, loved and appreciated."

Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports the Catholic Schools Office, which serves the 51 Catholic elementary and high schools in the diocese as well as the administrators, teachers and staff members forming students academically and spiritually.

'It's nice to have people that care and go above and beyond to help you out'

When the home he had been renting went up for sale, James had 72 hours to find a new living situation. Already out of work from the pandemic and struggling with a health issue that limited his go-to employment options, the timing could not have been worse.

Since James was already familiar with Daybreak Center from being homeless 11 years ago, his first call was to the Catholic Charities emergency shelter in Joliet. Twenty-four hours later, he had three meals and a bed — and services to help him get back on his feet.

"Everybody says, 'I'll never be homeless,' until that day comes," James said. "It's nice to have people that care and go above and beyond to help you out."

The men, women and children who live at Daybreak Center are assigned case managers who assess their specific needs and challenges. A multitude of services are available, such as job search assistance, healthy living workshops, counseling and connections with other community resources, to give clients like James the opportunity to become self-sufficient again.

James prefers not to consider what his life would be like without the kindness of Catholic Charities. "If it wasn't for Daybreak, I honestly, truly, don't know where I'd be right now," he said.

Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports Catholic Charities, which serves the poor and vulnerable among us.



Seminarian preparing to do 'the works of the Lord'

Although Deacon Brian Geary loved being a teacher, he could not shake the feeling that something was missing, that he was not as fulfilled as he thought he would be in his career.

A seed had been planted while he was involved with campus ministry at the University of Illinois Champaign and, for the first time, part of a supportive community of clergy and like-minded young adults "on fire for their faith."

"It was really in college that I started meeting a lot of good and holy priests, priests who really loved their vocations, loved what they did, loved the Lord," said Deacon Brian, who grew up as a member of St. Mary Parish in Mokena. "It was kind of through seeing their example that I began to at least ask the question, 'Is this something that I could be called to as well?'"

Two years post-graduation, he contacted the vocations director of the Diocese of Joliet and, to the surprise of family and friends, began discerning a vocation to the priesthood. He entered the seminary in 2016 and was ordained a transitional deacon in 2021 — the final step before priestly ordination this spring.

As he completes his final year of formation at Mundelein Seminary, Deacon Brian is "interning" at St. John the Baptist Parish in Winfield. He reads the Gospel and preaches the homily at Mass, performs baptisms and has the same responsibilities as a permanent deacon, only he is preparing for the priesthood.

"My life has really been given over to doing the works of the Lord," he said, "to being His instrument."

Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports the 26 men in seminary formation for the Diocese of Joliet.



Deaf Catholics should feel 'at home in the Church'

As a boy in the Philippines, Father John Ronaldo Abulag struggled to connect with the deaf people in his community. But he felt called to communicate with them, even though he had yet to learn that sign language existed.

"I just smiled at them," he said, never considering how those early experiences would influence his life — especially his future ministry.

A call to the priesthood during college led him to join the Dominican Missionaries for the Apostolates of the Deaf and Disabled, which sent him to the Diocese of Joliet two years ago to work toward priestly ordination while learning American Sign Language.

"The Church is not only for hearing people, it's for everyone, including deaf people," he said. "They should not feel neglected. They should feel at home in the diocese, at home in the Church."

Father Abulag's ordination last May was celebrated throughout our deaf community, which has been without a shepherd since 2016. He is equally excited to help meet the spiritual needs of deaf Catholics as their chaplain.

"This ministry enriches my own faith," he said. "It made me realize that God is not only calling me to be the priest of the hearing people, but he also calls me to be the priest of these deaf people so that in my own little way, I could lead the community to God and increase their faith."

Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports the Deaf Apostolate of the Diocese of Joliet and other ministries that ensure all feel welcome at the Lord's table.



Grandparents are 'models of God's love in our lives'

Colleen Lowery thinks often about how blessed she was to grow up with all four of her grandparents, especially now that she is a grandmother herself.

"They had a tremendous influence in my life, teaching me lessons of life and faith through their stories and unconditional love," she said. "Grandparents are so special because they give us roots of our past and our present and are models of God's love in our lives."

After retiring from a career in ministry, Colleen prayed about how she could continue her passion of passing on the faith to others while emulating the grandparents she so admired. To her surprise, she discovered the Catholic Grandparents Association, and set out to bring the global organization to her parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Darien.

Since 2019, Our Lady of Mount Carmel grandparents have met monthly to support each other in the challenges and blessings that come with spiritually guiding their children and grandchildren. Colleen is now working with the Diocese of Joliet to bring the grandparent ministry to other parishes.

"We feel that it's our responsibility and our vocation as grandparents to contribute to the family, to the Church and to society," Colleen said. "We don't want to be the generation that fails to pass on the faith, because it's really the most important job we'll ever have."

Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports faith formation opportunities for people of all ages.

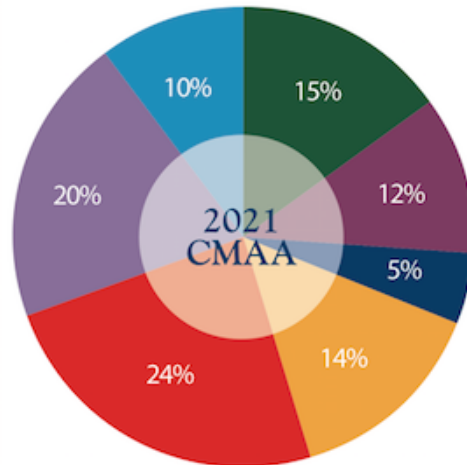


Prayerfully consider joining the Deo Gratias Society with your gift to the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal.

When you pledge \$100 a month for 10 months to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, you are welcomed as a member of the Deo Gratias Society. Members take a leadership role in the work of the Church, becoming partners in a shared vision for the future of the Diocese of Joliet.

In addition to spiritual benefits, membership includes an annual Mass and reception with Bishop Ronald A. Hicks, and recognition in our annual publication for society members.

In 2021, gifts to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal provided support for many works of the Lord.



Educating children and adults in the faith	15%
Ministering to people of all ages and ethnicities	12%
Honoring the dignity of life	5%
Serving our brothers and sisters in need	14%
Strengthening vocations and supporting clergy	24%
Serving and protecting parishioners	20%
Returning funds to parishes	10%
TOTAL	\$8,293,000
	100%

Pledge a gift to help your parish reach its goal and receive a CMAA rebate.
In 2021, CMAA rebates to parishes totaled \$859,000.

PARISH/MISSION	CITY	2022 CMAA GOAL	PARISH/MISSION	CITY	2022 CMAA GOAL	PARISH/MISSION	CITY	2022 CMAA GOAL
Ascension of Our Lord Parish	Oakbrook Terrace	\$42,000	St. Ann Parish	Channahon	\$38,100	St. Lawrence Parish	South Wilmington	\$10,700
Assumption of the B.V.M. Parish	Coal City	\$32,300	St. Anne Parish	Crest Hill	\$10,300	St. Liborius Parish	Steger	\$35,000
Assumption Parish	Ashkum	\$5,400	St. Anne Parish	Oswego	\$113,500	St. Luke Parish	Carol Stream	\$19,000
Cathedral of St. Raymond	Joliet	\$80,100	St. Anne Parish	St. Anne	\$9,700	St. Margaret Mary Parish	Herscher	\$9,500
Christ the King Parish	Lombard	\$55,400	St. Anthony Parish	Frankfort	\$87,300	St. Margaret Mary Parish	Naperville	\$124,400
Christ the Servant Parish	Woodridge	\$43,400	St. Anthony Parish	Joliet	\$10,600	St. Mark Parish	Wheaton	\$16,900
Corpus Christi Parish	Carol Stream	\$47,400	St. Bernard Parish	Homer Glen	\$55,800	St. Mary Immaculate Parish	Plainfield	\$204,700
Divine Mercy Parish	Lombard	\$45,600	St. Bernard Parish	Joliet	\$7,500	St. Mary Magdalene Parish	Joliet	\$17,400
Divine Savior Parish	Downers Grove	\$59,100	St. Boniface Parish	Monee	\$10,900	St. Mary Nativity Parish	Joliet	\$39,900
Holy Cross Parish	Joliet	\$11,000	St. Charles Borromeo Parish	Bensenville	\$33,300	St. Mary of Gostyn Parish	Downers Grove	\$134,800
Holy Family Parish	Shorewood	\$88,500	St. Daniel the Prophet Parish	Wheaton	\$62,000	St. Mary Parish	Reddick	\$3,500
Holy Ghost Parish	Wood Dale	\$58,300	St. Dennis Parish	Lockport	\$76,600	St. Mary Parish	Beaverville	\$6,800
Holy Spirit Catholic Community	Naperville	\$85,700	St. Dominic Parish	Bolingbrook	\$43,900	St. Mary Parish	Minooka	\$44,600
Holy Trinity Parish	Westmont	\$76,400	St. Edmund Parish	Waukegan	\$11,500	St. Mary Parish	Mokena	\$159,100
Immaculate Conception Mission	Roberts	\$1,000	St. Elizabeth Seton Parish	Naperville	\$110,100	St. Mary Parish	Park Forest	\$13,500
Immaculate Conception Parish	Braidwood	\$9,300	St. Francis of Assisi Parish	Bolingbrook	\$79,500	St. Mary Parish	Paxton	\$11,000
Immaculate Conception Parish	Elmhurst	\$114,200	St. Francis Xavier Parish	Joliet	\$34,900	St. Mary Parish	Plano	\$40,600
Immaculate Conception Parish	Gilman	\$8,300	St. George Parish	St. George	\$24,600	St. Mary Parish	West Chicago	\$52,600
Immaculate Conception Parish	Morris	\$68,400	St. Irene Parish	Warrenville	\$59,700	St. Matthew Parish	Glendale Heights	\$54,800
Mary Queen of Heaven Parish	Elmhurst	\$34,400	St. Isaac Jogues Parish	Hinsdale	\$185,700	St. Michael Parish	Wheaton	\$171,600
Maternity B.V.M. Parish	Bourbonnais	\$90,100	St. Isidore Parish	Bloomington	\$154,900	St. Patrick Parish	Joliet	\$21,100
Notre Dame Parish	Clarendon Hills	\$104,600	St. James Parish	Irwin	\$7,300	St. Patrick Parish	Kankakee	\$36,200
Our Lady of Korean Martyrs Parish	Lockport	\$4,500	St. James the Apostle Parish	Glen Ellyn	\$76,300	St. Patrick Parish	Momence	\$18,100
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	Gibson City	\$11,700	St. Joan of Arc Parish	Lisle	\$113,900	St. Patrick Parish	Wilton Center	\$9,600
Our Lady of Mercy Parish	Aurora	\$152,000	St. John Paul II Parish	Kankakee	\$53,400	St. Patrick Parish	Yorkville	\$81,500
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish	Darien	\$83,600	St. John the Apostle Parish	Villa Park	\$22,400	St. Paul the Apostle Parish	Joliet	\$59,800
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish	Joliet	\$23,300	St. John the Baptist Mission	L'Erable	\$4,100	St. Paul the Apostle Parish	Peotone	\$16,500
Our Lady of Peace Parish	Darien	\$95,800	St. John the Baptist Parish	Joliet	\$19,700	St. Peter Mission	Piper City	\$2,100
Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish	Homer Glen	\$32,000	St. John the Baptist Parish	Winfield	\$112,900	St. Peter Parish	Clifton	\$5,600
Queenship of Mary Parish	Glen Ellyn	\$13,800	St. John Vianney Parish	Lockport	\$14,300	St. Peter Parish	Itasca	\$54,700
Resurrection Parish	Wayne	\$52,100	St. Joseph Mission	Crescent City	\$3,300	St. Petronille Parish	Glen Ellyn	\$148,200
Sacred Heart Mission	Hopkins Park	\$1,700	St. Joseph Parish	Addison	\$29,600	St. Philip Parish	Addison	\$62,500
Sacred Heart Parish	Goodrich	\$6,300	St. Joseph Parish	Bradley	\$45,700	St. Pius X Parish	Lombard	\$67,900
Sacred Heart Parish	Joliet	\$10,300	St. Joseph Parish	Downers Grove	\$112,700	St. Raphael Parish	Naperville	\$189,500
Sacred Heart Parish	Kinsman	\$5,200	St. Joseph Parish	Joliet	\$48,600	St. Rose Parish	Wilmington	\$23,700
Sacred Heart Parish	Lombard	\$84,600	St. Joseph Parish	Lockport	\$49,600	St. Scholastica Parish	Woodridge	\$101,100
St. Alexander Parish	Villa Park	\$46,300	St. Joseph Parish	Manhattan	\$48,800	St. Thomas the Apostle Parish	Naperville	\$189,400
St. Alexis Parish	Bensenville	\$22,700	St. Joseph Parish	Manteno	\$28,300	St. Walter Parish	Roselle	\$122,700
St. Ambrose Parish	Crest Hill	\$20,200	St. Joseph Parish	Rockdale	\$22,800	Sts. Mary & Joseph Parish	Chebanse	\$4,500
St. Andrew Kim Parish	Itasca	\$22,400	St. Jude Parish	Joliet	\$59,400	Sts. Peter & Paul Parish	Naperville	\$195,600
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish	Romeoville	\$56,500	St. Jude Parish	New Lenox	\$115,700	Visitation Parish	Elmhurst	\$145,000