



Supporting our seminarians for the glory of God

For Andrew Bogusz, faith and family have always come first. As a dedicated altar server, he felt moved with emotion during the Consecration at every Mass he served. Prayerful time spent in the adoration chapel filled him with a profound sense of connection with Jesus. And his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary played an important role in who he is today.

Throughout his life, people would spontaneously ask him, "Have you ever considered the priesthood?" While others told him what a wonderful priest he'd make one day. Andrew recalled, "In time, I realized that God was speaking to me through others."

The signs pointing him in the direction of priesthood were abundant, yet like many men who are being called, he wrestled with his own plan versus God's plan. "I've always wanted to be a father. I pictured myself with a big family, a house, and a successful career. Then I had an epiphany. God did want me to be a father — a spiritual Father! At that moment, an incredible feeling of peace came over me," he said.

When Andrew entered the seminary, it immediately felt like home. "My fellow seminarians are just ordinary guys who absolutely love Jesus and are in touch with who they are and what the Lord wants them to be," said Andrew.

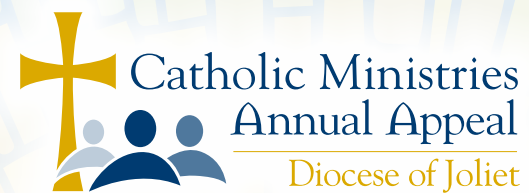
He offered this final thought. "Investing in our next generation of priests is an investment in communion, the sacraments, and the fullness of the ministries the Catholic Church supports. I ask that you pray for the success of the CMAA and blessings to all who support this extraordinary mission."

The CMAA supports men who are discerning vocations to the priesthood and in seminary formation for the Diocese of Joliet.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Development and Stewardship Office

16555 Weber Road | Crest Hill, Illinois 60403
(815) 838-8515 | jolietdioceseappeal.org

Counties of the diocese | DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Kendall, Will



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Catholics, we joyfully recognize and praise God's excellence when we join together in song or prayer to proclaim: *Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.*



Let's take that a step further by glorifying God not only in words, but in faith-forward action, by putting others ahead of ourselves, and cheerfully making sacrifices in order to accommodate their needs. That is precisely what it means to be "people of good will" — and true Christians!

The Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal is a powerful way we can honor God's glory by helping our neighbors in need. Every day, across the Diocese of Joliet, your generosity is making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate through Catholic Charities, inspiring our next generation of faithful in our Catholic schools and parishes, and educating the men who will devote their lives to shepherding us as our future priests.

As we launch the 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, let's reflect on the words of St. Paul, *Whatever you do, no matter what it is, in word or deed, do everything for the glory of God!* I ask you to please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and I encourage you to live your faith fully by making your pledge today. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated.

May God bless you always.

Peace,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

For the
Glory
of God



Commitment Weekend – February 10-11, 2024

2024 CMAA goal: \$8.75 million | jolietdioceseappeal.org

Prayerfully consider joining one of our donor societies with your gift to the 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.

Named for the patroness saint of the environment, paperless recurring monthly giving is the greenest way to contribute, saving valuable resources and reducing the number of diocesan mailings. Members of the *St. Kateri Tekakwitha Society* make a continuous gift to the CMAA via an automatic bank or credit card withdrawal, providing the diocese with a reliable and stable source of income for the many CMAA ministries.

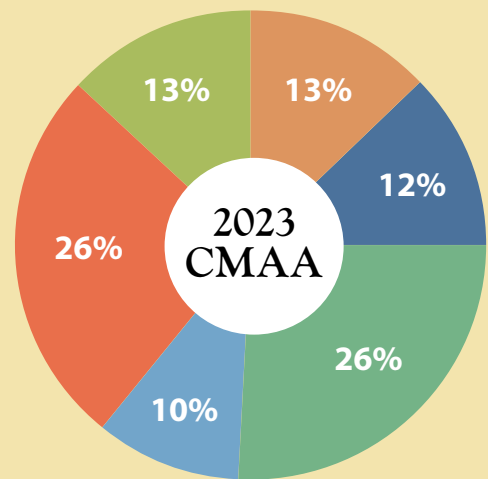


THE LUMEN CHRISTI
LEGACY SOCIETY



The *Lumen Christi Legacy Society* is for benefactors who share in the future vision of the Diocese of Joliet by making a gift in their will because they care deeply about causes that are important in their life. *Lumen Christi* is Latin for "light of Christ," as gifts given through this society will provide continued support of the parish, Diocese of Joliet, or the Seminarian Education Endowment for generations to come.

In 2023, gifts to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal supported essential ministries in the Diocese of Joliet.



Serving our brothers and sisters in need through Catholic Charities **13%**

Educating children in the faith through Catholic schools **12%**

Strengthening vocations, educating seminarians and supporting clergy **26%**

Catechesis and evangelization to all ages and abilities **10%**

Serving parishes, parishioners and protecting God's children **26%**

Rebates to parishes **13%**

TOTAL \$8,662,000 100%

When we give to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, we are making a difference by helping those in need.



Feeding those in need for the glory of God

When it comes to food insecurity, some of the most vulnerable are our senior citizens living on a fixed income or below the poverty line. The SeniorDine program feeds those in need in three ways: Home Delivery, Community Dining in senior centers and churches, and select restaurants in Kankakee, which offer a special menu for its recipients.

Brandon Barrows, Nutrition Program Director, is passionate about this ministry and proud that it nourishes both the body and social soul. "Many of these folks lack social connection and meeting their physical needs along with their social needs is deeply fulfilling," he said. Seeing a smiling face at your door with a hot meal in hand or sharing a healthy meal and good conversation with fellow seniors helps them feel cared for on many levels.



There are over 190 clients enrolled in the program with more than 110 people on the waitlist and the number keeps growing. "The more people we can help stay independent within our community, the better," said Brandon. Together we can make that happen — one plate, and one kind gesture at a time.

The CMAA supports our senior citizens who are in need of nutritious meals and companionship.

Educating our Catholic school leaders for the glory of God

A Catholic education is a triple blessing. The academic excellence it provides, coupled with the values it instills and life-long friendships it helps create, sets a strong foundation for lives lived deeply in faith. The Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Office is a ministry whose mission is to provide instruction and support for our principals, teachers, and staff to help them better educate and guide young minds and hearts daily.



Professional development initiatives, classes, and workshops are both academically driven and spiritually rooted. Becky Ward is the principal of St. Raphael Catholic School in Naperville. "Honestly, I am overwhelmed by the incredible support the Catholic Schools Office provides," she said.



Becky has seen firsthand how her teachers apply their leanings to the classroom, the joy it brings, and the difference it makes in their students. "Our Catholic faith is the cornerstone of everything we do," she said. "It's taught in every subject and most especially in the way our teachers and students treat each other and show each other Christ's love."

The CMAA supports the Catholic Schools Office which provides faith-based professional development and resources for our principals, teachers, and staff.

Enriching religious education for the glory of God

God calls us to serve in many special ways. This includes those who answer His call to teach the Catholic faith to our children and adults in formation throughout our diocese.

Deacon Anthony Clishem, Catechetical Formation Leader for the Catechesis and Evangelization Ministry for the Diocese of Joliet, said it best, "Jesus was a teacher and the catechists themselves have a beautiful vocation as teachers who use their gifts to help their students become more like the children of God they are meant to be."

The Catechetical Institute is a valuable resource for training our faith formation leaders, like Lauren Nelson and Kim Kroeze. They lead the religious education program at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Naperville.

Lauren believes teaching the faith is more than sacramental preparation. "It's preparing our children to be Catholics in the world," she said. Kim feels the training she receives is "spiritual nourishment" that feeds her and in turn, nourishes her students. "The more we grow in faith as catechists, the more we can help them grow their own seeds of faith."

The CMAA supports education programs for faith formation leaders in the Diocese of Joliet.

