

Bishop Clark asks Catholics to continue generosity in 2011-12 Catholic Ministries Appeal



Monday, Sept. 12, 2011 – Bishop Matthew Clark launched the 2011/12 Catholic Ministries Appeal today with the theme, “The Power of Many: Stronger As One,” asking Catholics to continue their strong support of the annual appeal.

This year’s Catholic Ministries Appeal – also known as the CMA – follows the most successful campaign since the annual appeal was begun in the early 1980s. A record \$5.2 million was raised, the most ever collected in the history of the CMA. In addition, the past campaign marked the 4th consecutive year that more than \$5 million was pledged, as well as the sixth straight year the average gift has climbed (\$161).

“For more than 30 years, I have witnessed with gratitude and awe the generosity of Catholics – no matter what the circumstance or economic climate,” Bishop Clark said. “I ask Catholics to once again support our ministries. As our theme says, the power of many people can make an enormous difference.”

The ministries and services the CMA funds affect every facet of Catholic life and every Catholic in our Diocese in some way,” Bishop Clark added. “I ask every Catholic family to participate if they can, knowing they are helping their parish, their friends and their neighbors. Every gift, large or small, helps.”

The CMA, which runs until May 31, 2012, helps fund ministries for more than 314,000 Catholics and others in Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Cayuga, Livingston, Steuben, Tioga, Chemung, Schuylar, Seneca, Tompkins and Yates counties. This year’s campaign goal is \$5.7 million. Materials are being mailed next week to approximately 112,000 households.

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- Educating our children and teens in the Roman Catholic faith
- Serving people in need through the agencies of Catholic Charities
- Supporting Catholic Schools
- Ministering to young Catholics on college campuses and connecting young adults to their faith
- Visiting the sick in our hospitals
- Reaching out to children and adults of migrant farm families
- Supporting and celebrating the work of our priests and promoting the priesthood
- Supporting Pope Benedict XVI’s ministries to people worldwide and national ministries
- Providing our parishes with professional services vital to their daily operation
- Spreading the Gospel message through modern means of communication
- Promoting Catholic values on the sanctity of life from conception to death.
- Developing positive relationships with people of other faiths through inter-religious dialogue
- Preparing couples for the sacrament of marriage
- Properly preparing people who wish to become Roman Catholic