

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)?**

Begun more than 30 years ago by Bishop Matthew Clark as the “Thanks Giving Appeal,” the aim of the CMA is to raise money to support crucial diocesan-wide ministries and outreach.

## **Why is it important that I give to the Appeal?**

From the very beginnings of the faith and the earthly ministry of Our Lord, our Church has depended on the faithful to provide their time and energy, skills and gifts in building the Kingdom of God. Without financial support, we could not adequately teach our young, help our old, feed our poor, maintain our churches and other buildings, or provide for our priests. The Body of Christ’s only real means of support is through the generosity of its members.

## **How is my contribution used?**

When you give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you are really giving to the eager children hungry to learn about the faith of their parents and generations of Catholics. You are giving to the dedicated young seminarian learning to serve God and the Church, or the older priest who has served faithfully and needs retirement support. You are giving to help the Vatican in its work in the world and to the bishops for ministries that span our nation. Your money goes to help the vital work of Catholic Charities, to families just like yours whose faith sees them through the ever-growing stress of life. And you give “locally: – more than half of every dollar raised returns to your parish in the form of services and programming your parish would have a difficult time providing on its own. None of the money is used to pay legal settlements related to sexual abuse cases.

## **How much should I give?**

That is a personal decision you must make. Each of us is called to reflect the compassion and generosity of Jesus, who gave his very life so that we might have eternity with God. We are called to be good stewards of all the many blessings God has bestowed on us. That is true discipleship. It means God asks us to use our blessings well, to help others, to share our bounty so that our wealth, however large or small, does good for God and returns to God with increase. Giving should be a sacrifice, but only you can decide. One thing is certain. Our God promises that our generosity will be returned to us many times over in ways that will delight us.



*Who is a Christian disciple? One who responds to Christ's call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ's. Who is a Christian steward? One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."*

**From Stewardship:  
A Disciple's Response**



Appeal by directly debiting your gift from your checking or savings account. For information, please see the back of your pledge card.

**Online Giving:** You may also donate online by logging on to our website at [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org) and clicking on "Donate" at the top of the homepage. Your confidential gift information will be transmitted via a secure server.

**Gifts of Securities:** A gift of appreciated securities is one way to make a significant contribution at a reduced cost to you. To make a gift of stock, please contact the Office of Stewardship, Development & Communications at (585) 328-3228, x-1326.

*Please remember that your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal will be credited to your parish's campaign goal*

### **How Can I Give?**

There are many ways that you can give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please consider the following options when making your gift this year:

**Cash Gifts:** Checks should be made payable to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Your pledge to the annual appeal is tax deductible and can be paid through May 31, 2012.

**Credit Card:** You may use your MasterCard, Visa, or Discover card to make a gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Information on how to complete your credit card gift is on the back of your pledge card.

**Electronic Funds Transfer:** You can also support the Catholic Ministries