



I AM *the Vine*  
*you are the BRANCHES*



Annual Report



My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This Annual Report describes how funds collected for the 2019-2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) were allocated and offers examples of the ways your generosity helped your sisters and brothers in Christ, providing for the poor, strengthening our parishes, enhancing our children's religious education programs, encouraging vocations, and supporting the many needed and beneficial, charitable ministries of the Church. I do hope you find this information helpful.

Please know that I am most grateful and humbled by your astounding generosity in this Campaign, *I AM the Vine, You Are the Branches*, conducted under the duress of the COVID-19 Pandemic and during an extended period of time when we were mandated not to gather at our churches by state officials and could not worship in-person as a community of faith. Yet we are a diocesan community truly blessed by so many people willing under any circumstances to share their gifts to help build God's kingdom.

That we were able to achieve more than 90 percent of our \$6.725 million goal is a testament to your abiding faith, to the tireless work of our pastoral leaders and to the grace of the Lord. Thank you so much!

May God bless you for helping us make a difference in a very challenging year. I look forward to your participation in the upcoming campaign.

Renewing my prayers and gratitude, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ *Salvatore R. Matano*

*The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano  
Bishop of Rochester*

*Debtor in Possession*

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." - John 15:5,8*

**Thank you for making a difference! Your gifts to the CMA have supported your sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the Diocese.**

11



Seminarians And Priests

1 priest was ordained and 10 seminarians are continuing their education

11



Deacons

11 men participated in formation with 3 ordained in August 2020

393



Hands of Christ Awards

393 high school seniors received the Hands of Christ award acknowledging their ministry and leadership

170



RCIA

170 people throughout the Diocese prepared to be welcomed into the Catholic Church through the RCIA program

1,289



Confirmations

1,289 people prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation

10,474



Parish Religious Education Programs

10,474 youth received religious education and sacramental preparation through parish-based religious education programs

3,020



Catholic Schools

3,020 youth were educated in diocesan Catholic schools with another 3,182 enrolled in private (non-diocesan) Catholic schools

250,000



Catholic Charities

250,000 people were assisted by one of our 10 Catholic Charities agencies throughout the 12 counties of the Diocese

We are extremely grateful to more than 22,000 donors who committed \$6,103,793 to the 2019-2020 CMA. The gifts contributed through fundraising covered nearly 91% of the \$6.725 million allocated for the Diocese of Rochester's \$11.8 million budget. Through your support, you have made it possible for the Diocese and your parish to continue the mission of our Church during this challenging time.

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## During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CMA funded

- Live-stream Sunday Masses celebrated by The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
- Zoom licenses to every parish/church in the Diocese giving them the ability to live-stream Mass and parish activities
- IT support, technology, infrastructure, and training to create remote work environments and enabling pastors and staff to provide live-stream opportunities to continue ministries and engage parishioners
- IT Help Desk enhanced services, such as a cloud-based phone system and screen-sharing technology to support nearly 3,000 employees working remotely, providing accessibility and timely response to staff needs
- IT support of Catholic School virtual instruction platforms
- Stewardship & Communications support to help parishes set up online giving and promote outreach to parishioners



**The final accounting for CMA 2019-2020  
will be available for review in November at  
[www.dor.org/about/financial-reports](http://www.dor.org/about/financial-reports).**

*All monies raised in the CMA are only used for the programs, services and ministries for which they are designated. No gifts to the CMA are used to satisfy legal fees or settlement costs associated with abuse.*

# Voices of Gratitude

## **Reverend James Schwartz**

*Pastor, St. Joseph's Church and Holy Spirit Church*

"The first requirement we have as the disciples of Jesus is to love. When we share the giftedness we have been given, we will share the love of Jesus with people in need throughout our Diocese.

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## **Katharina Nieves**

*Hands of Christ Award Recipient, 2019*

*St. Luke the Evangelist Parish*

"We've been called to serve out our faith and to share it with others.

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## **Kidane Malik**

*Hands of Christ Award Recipient, 2019*

*Sacred Heart Cathedral*

"We are securing for generations to come that rich history of faith.

”

## **Don Smith**

*Coordinator of Catechesis and Sacramental Life*

"The CMA is a vital expression of who we are because we are community. It allows us to be the Body of Christ in the world.

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## **Leslie Barkin**

*Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*

"It's really important to those who devote their lives to ministry to have the tools they need.

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## **Reverend Michael Costik**

*Pastor, St. Benedict's Parish*

"The more support I have and the more people I have being trained for us by the Diocese of Rochester, the more I can focus on the liturgical message and long-term vision in building up of the ministry.

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## **Pat O'Brien**

*Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

"We need to be there for them just like they've been there for us. This is our Church and we're going to make sure it takes care of us and the Lord will take care of all the rest.

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