

NEWS FROM THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

“We are God’s Helping Hands” is theme of the 2013/14 Catholic Ministries Appeal

ROCHESTER, New York (Sept. 23, 2013) – Most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Rochester, today appealed to all Catholics in the 12-county Diocese to support the 2013/14 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), which is launching this week with the theme, “We Are God’s Helping Hands.”



“I thank you for all you have done and ask that your support continue,” Bishop Cunningham said. “We truly are God’s helping hands. We can do so much through your gift, such as nurturing children and teens in Catholic values they’ll carry into adulthood or providing a spiritual anchor to young adult Catholics on college campuses. We can promote vocations to the Priesthood, help

families in need find their way back to stability, prepare engaged couples for God-centered marriages, bolster our schools, and spread the Gospel message in our society in hopes of changing lives forever, and so much more.”

“I ask every Catholic family to participate if they can, knowing they are helping their parish, their friends and their neighbors and especially those most in need. Every gift, large or small, helps us to keep the spirit of service and good stewardship alive.”

The CMA helps fund ministries for more than 314,000 Catholics and others in Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Cayuga, Livingston, Steuben, Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Tompkins and Yates counties.

This year’s goal is \$5.875 million.

The 2013/14 Catholic Ministries Appeal follows the most successful campaign since the annual appeal was begun in the early 1980s. A record \$5.4 million was raised in last year’s campaign, the most ever collected in the history of the CMA begun by Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark in 1981. In addition, the past campaign marked the 5th consecutive year that more than \$5 million was pledged, as well as the 9th straight year the average gift (\$183) has climbed.

Pledge materials are being mailed to approximately 112,000 households in the Diocese. Donors can also give securely online at www.dor.org

WHAT THE CMA SUPPORTS

- 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 Francis’ ministries to people worldwide and U.S. 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