



**Serving our brothers and sisters in need**  
Catholic Charities serves more than 51,000 children, adults and senior citizens in need each year. Its Daybreak Center emergency shelter in Joliet provides more than 19,013 nights of shelter and short-term assistance to individuals and families, as well as 18,608 meals through Shepherd's Table.

**Honoring the dignity of life**  
Our diocese ensures the full dignity of the human person and protects all of God's creation through mission trips, justice and peace efforts, advocacy for the unborn and those with disabilities, and care for the environment.

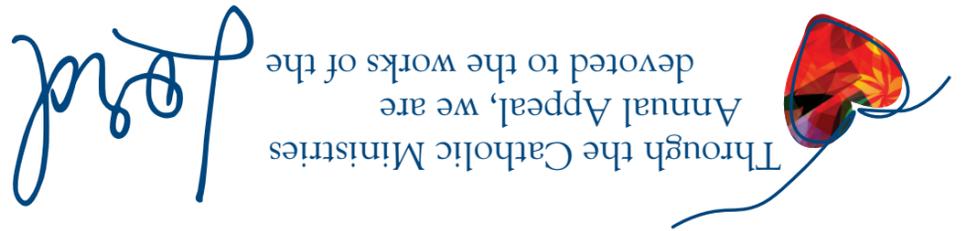


**Ministering to people of all ages and ethnicities**  
To ensure all 545,462 Catholics in our seven counties hear the Good News of Christ, the diocese reaches out through evangelizing ministries and programs to families, college students and young adults that are inclusive of the races and ethnicities represented in our diverse community of faith.



**Educating children and adults in the faith**  
The Diocese of Joliet is dedicated to engaging children, teenagers and adults in the faith and guiding them on their spiritual journey. Our 51 Catholic elementary and high schools combine academic excellence with faith formation for their 16,602 students, while our 124 parishes and missions provide religious education to 31,898 students and teens.

**The CMAA supports ministries and programs essential to the mission of the Diocese of Joliet.**

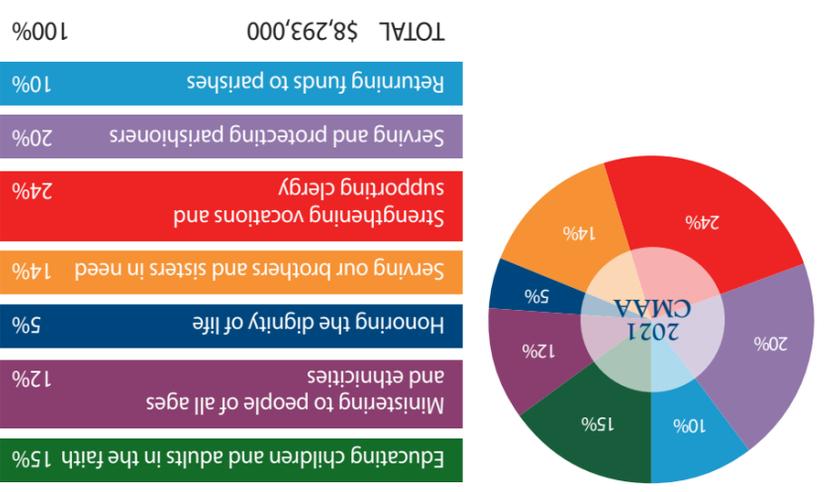


**Returning funds to parishes**  
The diocese returns to parishes 70 percent of any amount they raise over their CMAA goal. Parish rebates in 2021 totaled \$859,000, and these funds have been a blessing to the 78 communities that received them.

**Serving and protecting parishioners**  
Our diocese is blessed to have men and women who dedicate their careers to ensuring that children and others who need a voice are protected, that gifts are stewarded wisely, and that parishioners are informed and able to live their faith in full communion with the Church.



**Strengthening vocations and supporting our priests**  
The 26 seminarians preparing to serve as priests for our diocese will spend as many as eight years in formation before being ordained, which can cost as much as \$50,000 a year. The CMAA also supports the ministry of our 126 priests and 232 permanent deacons and helps care for our 47 retired priests.



**In 2021, gifts to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal provided support for many works of the Lord.**

**Prayerfully consider joining the Deo Gratias Society with your gift to the 2022 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.

**More about the CMAA is only a click away!**

The Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal website, at [jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org), is your source for information related to the many ministries your generosity supports.

You will find:

- A special CMAA video message from Bishop Hicks.
- Videos featuring our ministries and interviews with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are *devoted to the works of the Lord* — and people who benefit from your generosity, too.
- Information on planned giving so you can explore leaving a legacy to the diocese, your parish or a Catholic school.
- Frequently asked questions about our annual appeal.

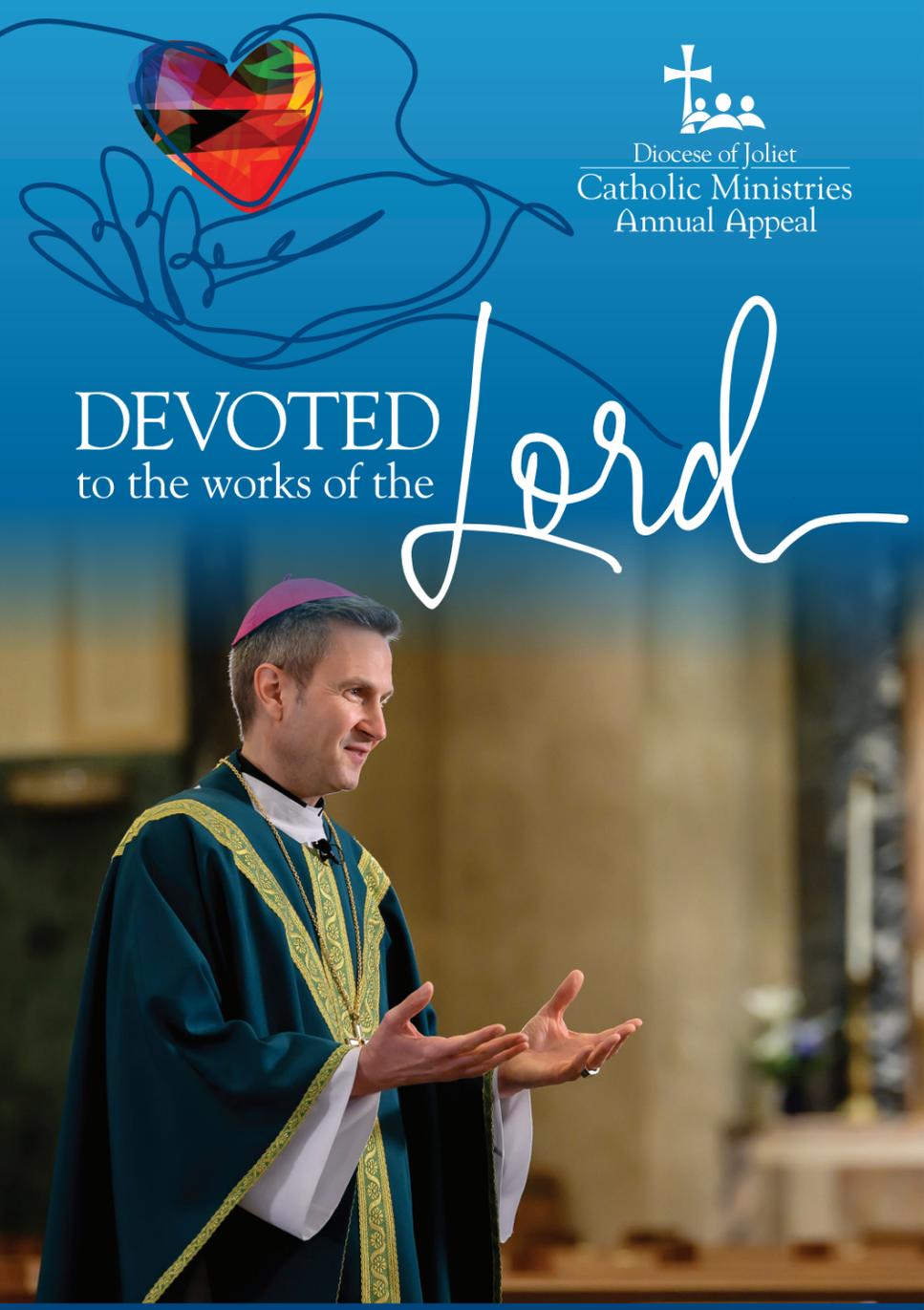
You can also subscribe to the CMAA newsletter, review detailed explanations of the different ways to give, and make your gift online.



Scan this code with your mobile device to visit the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal website today!

The Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal supports the mission and ministries of the Diocese of Joliet. No CMAA gifts are used to settle claims of any nature against the diocese.

**DIOCESE OF JOLIET**  
Development and Stewardship Office | 16555 Weber Road | Crest Hill, Illinois 60403  
(815) 838-8515 | [jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org)  
Counties of the diocese | DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Kendall, Will





### Catholic Charities 'gave me a pathway to ... give my time and talent to help people'

A past generosity continues to inspire Pat Knittel to give back, in any way she can.

Many years ago, shortly after Pat had her first child, her now-late husband was laid off from his job. When fellow parishioners learned of the family's challenges, they brought them groceries from the parish food pantry. "That just touched me, that someone saw there was a need and reached out," she said.

Ever since, Pat has regularly supported food drives and pantries. When she learned her parish, St. Joseph in Bradley, was seeking sponsors to bring Catholic Charities' mobile food pantry to their community, she and her current husband, Alan, immediately donated to the cause. But they also decided to volunteer to help distribute the 9,000 pounds of food each truck holds to hungry families.

"It gave me a pathway to do what I believe in, to give my time and talent to help people," Pat said. "We try to help the Church in any way we can. We're just so blessed."

*Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports Catholic Charities, which serves the poor and vulnerable among us.*



### When deaf Catholics 'see the Word in their own language, they feel a part of it'

Like any other Catholic, deaf Catholics want to feel included in the life of the Church.

Through the Deaf Apostolate, the diocese offers both interpreted and signed Masses, although signed Masses have been limited since the death of the ministry's prior chaplain in 2016. But with last year's ordination of Father John Ronaldo Abulag, community members will once again have their own shepherd to sign the liturgy so they may fully participate.

Interpreted Masses, found at a handful of parishes, help deaf Catholics clearly understand what is being presented. "When they are able to see the Word in their own language, they feel a part of it," said Sharon McDonald, an active member of the Diocese of Joliet's deaf community. "They feel that connection to the priest and to everyone else there hearing it."

Sharon is currently pursuing certification as a lay minister, so she can teach the faith to adults and children in her community.

"Spreading the Word is the work of the Lord," Sharon said. "We're doing service to the Lord by bringing them into the faith."

*Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports ministries that ensure all feel welcome at the Lord's table.*

### 'God desires us to make a free choice in discerning His will'

Deacon Greg Alberts was 16 and at a youth conference with the theme "God Calls You by Name," when those who felt any desire for the priesthood or religious life were invited to come forward to the altar.

"I closed my eyes to pray for the people who were going up," he said. "I didn't even realize I had gotten up until I was most of the way there."

He surprised not only himself that day but also his father, who was a chaperone. Two years would pass before he began exploring the priesthood in earnest, first through a religious order and then the diocesan priesthood through the assistance of the diocesan Vocations Office.

"God desires us to make a free choice in discerning His will," said Deacon Greg, who has continued feeling strongly throughout his eight years of seminary formation that God is calling him to the priesthood.

As Deacon Greg completes his studies at Mundelein Seminary and assists at St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield, he believes his mission as a transitional deacon is to be present to those who continue to struggle with the pandemic.

"People are looking for some kind of assurance that it's going to be all right," he said. "I try through my preaching and through my interactions with my people to be clear that God is still with us."

*Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports the 26 men in seminary formation for the Diocese of Joliet.*



### Catholic schools are a 'community for life'

Karen Zucker feels so strongly about the impact her Catholic education has had on nearly every aspect her life that she sought the same experience for her daughter.

"It set me up for success," said Karen, who attended Bishop McNamara Catholic School, where her daughter is currently a fifth grader at the Bradley site. "You definitely are part of the community for life."

But the above-par academics are only part of the equation. "I wanted Anna to be in an environment where the morals and values that I teach her at home were reinforced on a daily basis," she said.

The devotion of Catholic School teachers to their students is evident, to the point that Bishop McNamara's are role models her daughter often seeks to emulate. "She has been able to grow because of the general care from the teachers," said Karen a member of St. Joseph Parish in Bradley. "They have created an environment where she feels safe, heard and like she can do anything."

*Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports the Catholic Schools Office, which serves the 51 Catholic elementary and high schools in the diocese as well as the administrators, teachers and staff.*

### 'It's truly a blessing to be able to go and do mission'

When Dr. Mike Hoffman went on his first mission trip with the Diocese of Joliet 10 years ago, the Elmhurst pediatrician could not have foreseen that he would return to the Philippines year after year — or how the ministry would become the cornerstone of his faith.

"The people that I minister to, they reinvigorate your faith every time you go," said Mike, who has served as the medical director for the diocese's annual mission trip to the province of Eastern Samar since 2015. "They are just thankful for what the Lord has given them."

The Diocese of Joliet organizes annual mission trips with medical, construction and outreach components to Bolivia, the Philippines, Kenya and Uganda, as well as to a Navajo reservation in Arizona, in order to serve the poorest of the poor. Mike and his team provide both ambulatory and surgical care to patients who may have to travel multiple days to see a physician or obtain medical treatment for the first time in their life.

"People say you get more out of the mission than you put in," he said. "It's true. It's truly a blessing to be able to go and do mission."

*Your devotion to the works of the Lord through the CMAA supports mission opportunities in our diocese and beyond.*

