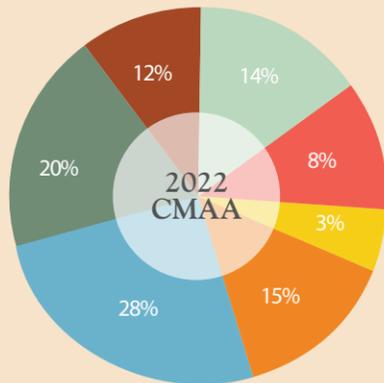


The ministries and programs we support through the CMAA are essential to the mission of the Diocese of Joliet and to doing God's work here on earth.

**When we join together, we make a difference in the lives of many.**

In 2022, gifts to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal supported essential ministries in the Diocese of Joliet.



Educating children and adults in the faith through Catholic schools and religious education	14%
Ministering to people of all ages, abilities and ethnicities	8%
Honoring the dignity of life	3%
Serving our brothers and sisters in need through Catholic Charities	15%
Strengthening vocations, educating seminarians and supporting clergy	28%
Serving and protecting children and parishioners	20%
Returning funds to parishes	12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,228,000</b>
	<b>100%</b>

**You are invited to join the *Deo Gratias Society***



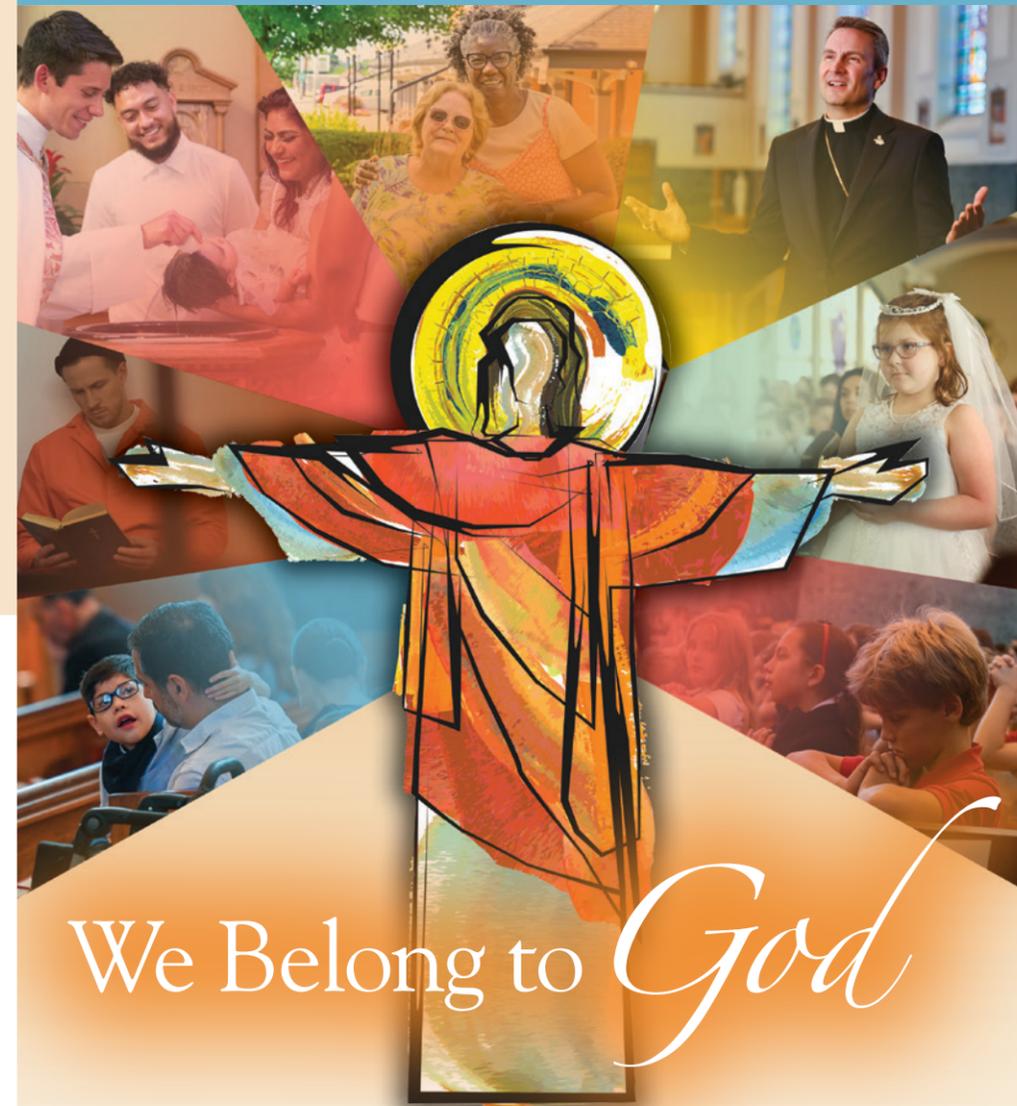
When you pledge \$100 a month for 10 months to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, you are welcomed as a member of the *Deo Gratias Society*. Members take a leadership role in the work of the Church, becoming partners in a shared vision for the future of the Diocese of Joliet.

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.

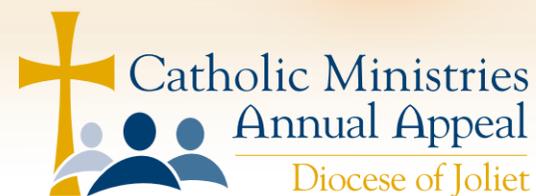
*The Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal supports the mission and ministries of the Diocese of Joliet. No CMAA gifts are used to settle claims of any nature against the diocese.*

**DIOCESE OF JOLIET**  
 Development and Stewardship Office | 16555 Weber Road | Crest Hill, Illinois 60403  
 (815) 838-8515 | jolietdioceseappeal.org

Counties of the diocese | DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Kendall, Will



We Belong to *God*



When we give to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, we help those in need know they belong to *God*.





## The poor and vulnerable belong to *God.*

Every person who walks through the doors of Catholic Charities' Daybreak Center in Joliet has a unique story and a common need — to be seen.

"Many of the folks we serve are used to being invisible to most of the people they encounter on a daily basis," said Courtney Suchor, director. "They're passed over, not considered, not looked in the eye, not spoken to."

But Catholic Charities looks for the face of God in every person they serve. At Daybreak Center, clients receive more than emergency housing. Staff members help them find jobs and permanent housing and connect them with community resources so they can successfully navigate their lives and regain their independence.

"That's the whole reason why we do what we do," Courtney said. "We're so happy for the person who's persevered through such difficult circumstances and has come out on the other side with a new outlook on life. It's just the best."

*The CMAA supports the work of Catholic Charities, which serves those in need of emergency housing.*

## Our seminarians belong to *God.*

The summer after his sophomore year in college, Deacon Jeremy Leganski was studying abroad in Italy when he began going to daily Mass. It was there, in a small chapel in the middle of Florence, that the Lord began inviting him to consider the priesthood.

"I knew some Italian, but I wasn't fluent, so as the priest was saying the words of the Consecration in Italian, I was translating in my head, 'this is my body ... this is my blood,'" he said. "And I started to feel a movement in my heart."



Like many men who unexpectedly hear the Lord's call, Deacon Jeremy already had a plan for his future: medical school, marriage and fatherhood. But at the start of his junior year, he called the Diocese of Joliet's vocations director and began attending discernment events and retreats. The next summer, instead of taking the exam for medical school admission, he volunteered with the Catholic youth program, Totus Tuus, alongside seminarians.

"By the end of a summer full of ministry and serving the youth, my heart was very full," said Deacon Jeremy, who is from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Darien. "I realized, even if I were accepted to my dream medical school, seminary would still be in my heart."

As Deacon Jeremy prepares for ordination during his final year at Mundelein Seminary, he is thankful for the support he has received throughout his journey from the diocesan Vocations Office.

"When the Lord calls, we answer, because God has a plan for our lives," he said. "The happiest we can possibly be in this life is when we follow God's plans."

*The CMAA supports men who are discerning vocations to the priesthood and in seminary formation for the Diocese of Joliet.*



## Our children belong to *God.*

From the first day she toured Mother Teresa Catholic Academy in Crete, April Galindo felt welcomed "like family."

"It felt like a community that we wanted to be a part of," she said. "And we decided right then — Yep, we're sending our kids here, let's do this."

April now serves as president of the parent-teacher organization and her second and sixth graders are thriving — not only academically, but in their faith, too.

It was important to the Galindo family that their children attend a Catholic school where teaching the faith was a priority. At Mother Teresa Catholic Academy, students gather in the gym each morning to begin the school day together in prayer, attend Mass every week and pray the Rosary and the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy monthly.

"I wanted my children to have that foundation that they will take with them into the rest of their lives," April said. "That really impacted me growing up."

*The CMAA supports the Catholic Schools Office, which serves Catholic elementary and high schools in the diocese as well as the administrators, teachers and staff members forming students academically and spiritually.*

## Those with special needs belong to *God.*

When Lynn Filla-Clark takes her daughter to Mass at St. Scholastica Parish in Woodridge, she is grateful Katie, who has Down syndrome, can fully participate in the liturgy.

Although Lynn recognized that Katie's religious education may not follow the same path as her siblings, she wanted her to have a foundation in the Catholic faith. Their parish was not equipped to provide religious education to children with special needs, but she learned a nearby parish, St. Raphael in Naperville, offered a diocesan faith formation program for persons with disabilities.

"It was on a level that Katie could understand," Lynn said. "She knows that there's a God, she knows about Jesus. She knows Jesus loves her, and that's cool."

Katie was not only able to prepare for and receive the sacraments of Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation, she became friends with other children in the program. Now 24, she has transitioned to a "fun group" for those who want to stay involved as adults. Many also gather annually at the Mass for those with special needs, which Bishop Hicks celebrates at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet.

Lynn feels strongly that Katie and other special needs children and adults should be welcomed and accepted in parishes and accommodated through special faith formation programs. "Why shouldn't they be part of a church, a faith community?" Lynn asked. "She's part of the Church."

*The CMAA supports faith formation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.*

