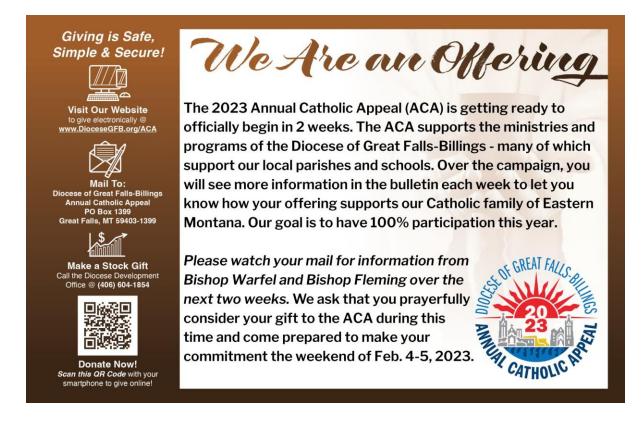
2023 BULLETIN ANNOUCEMENTS

Announcement Weekend (2 weeks prior to Kickoff, sent on 1/16 for use on 1/21-1/22):



Announcement Weekend 2 (1 week prior to Kickoff, sent on 1/23 for use on 1/28-1/29):



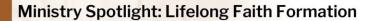


Weekend One:

Thermometer Posters with the Numbers from 2022, no bulletin announcement sent

Weekend Two (Sent on 2/13 for use on 2/18-2/19):





Everyone's faith journey is different. The Department of Lifelong Faith Formation assists individuals, catechetical leaders, and pastors in providing the People of God of Eastern Montana with material to strengthen their faith and enrich their spirituality. The mission of this office is to provide relevant, reliable, and trustworthy catechetical and educational materials, consistent with the teaching of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, to enrich the faith lives of Catholics of all ages throughout Eastern Montana. While people may think of this as working with our children and youth



and/or working with sacramental preparation, the Department of Lifelong Formation also works with adults who are becoming Catholic and those who want to strengthen their Catholic faith. Some of the other activities supported through this department include youth events, Synod support, Eucharistic Revival activities and the upcoming Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

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Weekend Four (Sent 2/27 for use on 3/4-3/5):

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Ministry Spotlight: The Harvest Magazine

Every other month 14,000 households across Eastern Montana receive a copy of *The Harvest* magazine, at no cost to them. *The Harvest* is one of the primary communication tools used by the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings to ensure that all of our Catholic families are able to stay up to date on what is happening around the diocese. The magazine includes a regular column from Bishop Warfel on a current topic of interest, and now will also include articles from Bishop Fleming. Additionally, *The Harvest*, shares news, announcements, celebrations, education, and recognition about our diocese

and the good work that we do. It is an opportunity to highlight local parishes, while also sharing about the work of the ministries of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. As an added bonus, *The Harvest* is our way to ensure that every registered Catholic household has a connection and contact with the diocese at least six times each year. We could not provide this without your gifts to the ACA.



Ministry Spotlight: St. Thomas Camp

St. Thomas Camp is both a physical location and an experience that is located just outside of Monarch, MT.

As a physical location, St. Thomas Camp sits in the Lewis & Clark National Forest 45 miles southeast of Great Falls. The camp is used not only for our own summer camps but can (and is) also be rented and used for other retreats, reunions, and events.

As a summer camp, each summer approximately 150 children and teens attend a weeklong camp experience. The goal is to help children and teens



feel the love of Christ, experience an adventure in the outdoors, and be challenged to become the saint God wants them to be. It is a way that our youth in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings can celebrate being Catholic together while participating in sacramental encounters, deep discipleship, camp adventures, and field trips.



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Weekend Six (Sent on 3/13 for use on 3/18-3/19):

Ministry Spotlight: Foreign Priests

We have 50 churches and 50 missions in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, and we need a priest presence at each of these locations. While some of our priests have a dedicated parish, some of our priests cover a "cluster" of churches and may be responsible from anywhere from two to five parishes in surrounding towns.

While our goal will always be to have local men discern the vocation of priesthood, we know that we cannot currently depend on that to ensure that we have enough priests to serve our over 14,000+ Catholic households in Eastern Montana. This means we need support from priests who are from other countries and/or belong to specific orders versus being a diocesan priest. Without these priests - we would



not be able to celebrate Mass every week at each of our locations. Some of our parishes are already experiencing these scheduling issues.

Your support to the ACA assists the Diocese in helping our foreign priests with immigration services, support in transitioning to the United States and Montana, and other support as needed, so they are able to serve our communities.

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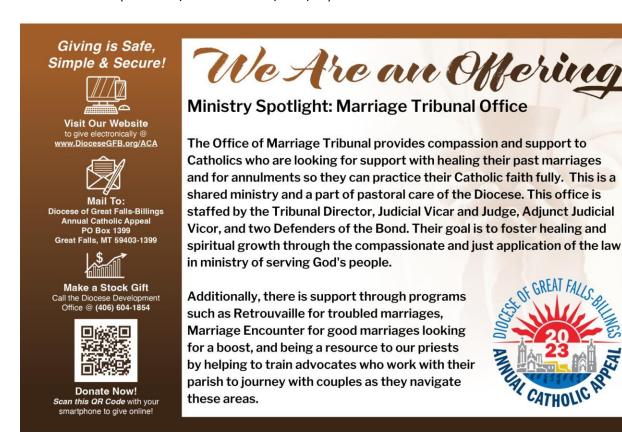
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Weekend Eight (Sent on 3/27 for use on 4/1-4/2):

Ministry Spotlight: Safe Environment Program

The Diocese leads the Safe Environment program for all of our parishes, schools, and other programs/ministries to follow. The Safe Environment program provides education around abuse and neglect for our children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

The Safe Environment program is completed by all employees and volunteers who are working within the diocese and have any kind of contact with our children, young people, and vulnerable adults. The education helps to identify the signs for abuse and neglect, then helps to educate them on

how to report the suspicions so that it may be investigated.



The Safe Environment program also has components that are used with our young people to help them be aware of safe boundaries and interactions with others (including their own age) and who to ask for help if they have a concern.

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Second Commitment Weekend Ten (Sent on 4/10 for use on 4/15-4/16):



Weekend Eleven (Sent on 4/17 for use on 4/22-4/23):





Beginning in March 2022, the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings launched a one-year subscription to FORMED for every Catholic in Eastern Montana. After the positive feedback, this was extended through 2023.

FORMED is a digital gateway to Catholic content, available on demand by the user. It is a one stop location for all of the best Catholic media - where the user can watch, listen, or read at any time. This provides an opportunity for the user to explore their faith anywhere they have an internet connection. Additionally, FORMED has age-appropriate content for

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children through adults, on a wide variety of topics. Topics include: Personal Devotion, Scripture, Adult Faith Formation, Teen Faith Formation, Marriage, Sacramental Prep, and many more. These are all found through books, movies, Bible studies, parish programs, audio dramas, and more delivered in multiple languages from your mobile device or computer.

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Weekend Thirteen (Sent on 5/1 for use on 5/6-5/7):

Ministry Spotlight: Office of the Bishops

The Office of the Bishops is a ministry funded through your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your support ensures that our Bishops have the ability and support to perform their ministry and lead the Catholic Church of Eastern Montana. Our Bishops are responsible for teaching doctrine, governing Catholics in their jurisdiction and representing the Church to all people within their jurisdiction. This includes celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation, joining in parish celebrations and milestones, and parish and school visits.

More specifically, funding for the Office of the Bishops supports our



Bishops' salaries, office equipment and supplies, travel expenses (auto, gas, tires, repair, etc.), and costs associated with representing the Church of Eastern Montana worldwide, etc. Our Bishops love to come meet, pray, and visit with you in your local communities and the ACA allows them to do exactly that.

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Ministry Spotlight: Seminarian Support

As men are discerning the call to priesthood, our Diocese wants to provide support. This begins with a Vocations Director, who will pray with and answer questions to help them discern what is the call of God in their lives. If they feel called to continue the path towards priesthood, the Diocese will also provide support for graduate level seminarian education to include tuition, books, room, boarding, and even some travel expenses. Additionally, we also have a priest that is specifically assigned to Seminarian Formation who will support them through the process up to an including their ordination, when they will become transitional deacons and then priests of the Diocese. These are important pieces of support.

transitional deacons and then priests of the Diocese. These are important pieces of support, so that as these men are working towards priesthood, they do not have to worry about the financial aspects of the process. As we hope to continue to grow our Seminarian program, we will continue to need support for this fund.

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Weekend Fifteen (Sent on 5/15 for use on 5/20-5/21):

Wrap-Up Weekend

Next weekend is Wrap-Up Weekend for the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal. While gifts and donations can be made throughout the remainder of the calendar year, we will not be actively asking for contributions to the 2023 ACA.

The goal for the 2023 ACA is \$1.7 million - these dollars do not leave the diocese and are used solely for the ministerial work of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. Thus far, we have reached just \$1.4 million - and we need your support to be able to meet our budget needs without cutting any programs or services.

We are asking for everyone to commit to their gift to the ACA by next weekend, if you have not already done so. Commitments can be a one-time payment, installments over a couple of months, or gifts given each month. These can be paid immediately or over time, through December 31, 2023.



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Wrap-Up Weekend

This is Wrap-Up Weekend for the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal - we made it! We have currently reached approximately 85% of our financial goal, but we are still about \$250,000 short of where we need to be to meet our budget for the ministry services of the Diocese. Additionally, we are at about 24% overall participation - and our goal was 100%. We know that we can get much closer to these goals, but we can't do it without you!

Thank you again to those of you have already made your commitment, we have received gifts from over 3,200 families. And to those who have been considering a gift or who may know be thinking about giving - we are asking you to simply make a commitment this weekend by filling out a pledge card. These can be a one-time payment, installments over a couple of months, or gifts given each month. These can be paid immediately or over time, through December 31, 2023.



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