

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

Through prayer, the Sacraments, and attending Mass, we can express our gratitude and acknowledge that all comes from God. May our hearts always be filled with thankfulness and hope. To make a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal, please visit madisondiocese.org/acagive or complete the pledge card and mail it in the envelope provided.

PERPETUAL STEWARD SOCIETY

The Perpetual Steward Society was established to recognize and thank donors who have set up a recurring credit card or EFT gift with no end date. Please consider joining the Perpetual Steward Society by setting up a recurring gift to the ACA. Your monthly gift, of any dollar amount, supports the Diocese of Madison to carry out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Perpetual Steward Society members receive several benefits from the Diocese. For more information, visit madisondiocese.org/stewards.

2025 ACA GOAL: \$4.2 MILLION

HOPE FOR THE CHURCH



Your gift directly supports the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples. By contributing, you help spread Christ's message of love and hope, empower parishioners to grow in faith and service, and support efforts that bring new Catholics into the Church.

MINISTRIES INCLUDE:

- Training for sacramental preparation
- Go Make Disciples
- Called & Gifted™
- Hispanic and migrant support
- FOCUS Missionaries

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

Five years ago, I attended a candlelight vespers service in Switzerland a few days before Christmas. We sang hymns a cappella and had time for silent reflection. It was an ethereal and transcendent experience in which I felt the presence of a millennia of saints. Afterwards, I felt a calling to deepen my faith, which led me to the Catholic Church here in the Diocese of Madison. After reaching out to the Diocese, I met my now friend and sponsor, Michelle. She helped me find a parish to guide me in the OCIA process and preparation for the Sacraments. I joyfully look forward to entering the Church at the upcoming Easter Vigil Mass and receiving the fullness of God's promises through the Eucharist.

— Beverly



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



Fostering strong Catholic marriages and families is vital for the future. Whether spiritually walking with engaged couples, providing Catholic education in our schools and faith-formation programs, or offering a host of powerful ministries for the youth of our diocese, your gift makes an impact that will last for generations to come.

MINISTRIES INCLUDE:

- Camp Gray
- Totus Tuus
- Witness to Love
- Love Begins Here
- Catholic Schools

HOPE IN ACTION

Our ministries share Christ's love by offering hope and comfort to the lost, suffering, and forgotten in our diocese. Through compassionate support and practical assistance, we strive to carry out the corporal works of mercy, uplift spirits, and inspire faith in all those in need.

MINISTRIES INCLUDE:

- The Beacon
- 5 Door Recovery
- Adult Day Center
- Walking with Moms in Need
- Parish Mobile Food Pantries
- Care Team Ministries



HOPE IN DIFFICULT TIMES



We all face difficult times in life, but through the outreach of the Church, we don't have to face them on our own. The goal of these ministries is to help individuals cope during challenging times, to offer hope and reassurance that they are not alone, and to help them grow in their faith.

MINISTRIES INCLUDE:

- Lay Them to Rest
- Divorce Ministry
- Mental Wellness Programs

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: MENTAL WELLNESS SUPPORT GROUPS

Many of us struggle with challenges like grief, self-esteem, feeling overwhelmed at work, depression, loneliness, anxiety, or trauma. Sometimes we even feel lost in prayer.

When I saw that the Diocese was offering Mental Health First Aid Training, I was drawn to it. I had previously taken basic first aid, so of course, there should also be a mental health component! The Mental Health First Aid Training inspired me to partner with the diocese to provide a mental health spiritual support group at my parish. Once a month, those experiencing mental health challenges come together in fellowship. We get to know one another, pray with Scripture, share how God is working in our lives, and search for hope amidst our struggles. We experience the blessing of community.



— Jackie

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I invite you to reflect on the theme for the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), “Hope Does Not Disappoint.” Taken from Romans 5:5, this verse reminds us that hope does not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into each of our hearts through the Holy Spirit. This beautiful passage connects deeply to the Diocese of Madison and the services delivered through the ACA. Among the many programs that receive support are the Mental Wellness Ministry, which provides Catholic resources for mental health, and Sacramental Preparation Ministries, which guide individuals and families through the important steps of receiving the Sacraments.

“In this Year of Jubilee, let us embrace a spirit of renewal and hope. Through your gift, you become part of the mission of the Church. When we come together in charity and generosity, God uses us to bring hope to others.”

It is only through our combined efforts—through the hands, hearts, and resources of every member of this diocese—that we can continue to care for the needs of the poor and vulnerable, educate the next generation of the Faithful, provide spiritual growth, and spread the Gospel message to all who are seeking the light of Christ.

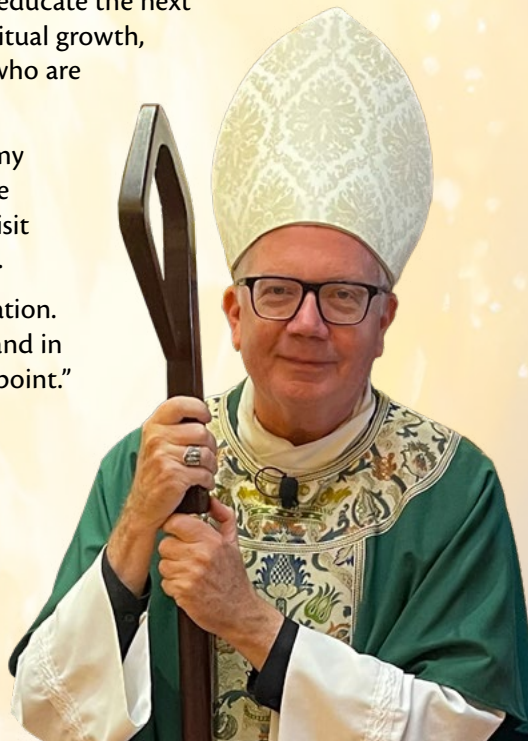
Our goal this year is \$4.2 million, and my hope is that all Catholics of our diocese will join this important effort. Please visit madisondiocese.org/aca to learn more.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Let us come together in faith, in love, and in the surety that “Hope Does Not Disappoint.”

In Hope, I am,

+ Donald J. Hying

+Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison



HOPE
does not disappoint

“HOPE DOES NOT
DISAPPOINT,
BECAUSE THE LOVE
OF GOD HAS BEEN
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THROUGH THE
HOLY SPIRIT
THAT HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO US.”

— ROMANS 5:5

2025 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC APPEAL

LUMEN CHRISTI SOCIETY



The Lumen Christi, or “the Light of Christ” Society, was established to recognize and thank donors who give to the ACA in an exceptionally generous way. Membership is automatic with a yearly gift of \$1,000 or more. For a complete list of levels and benefits, visit madisondiocese.org/lumenchristi.

2025 ACA CHAIR COUPLE: FRED AND DEBBIE SCHWARTZ

Every two years, Bishop Hying selects an ACA Chair Couple to serve with him as spokespersons for the appeal and to bring awareness to the ministries it supports. For the second year, Fred and Debbie Schwartz are humbled to serve as the ACA Chair Couple.

We grew up in Madison and have been happily married for 48 years. We are members of the Stella Maris Pastorate and live in McFarland. We have three children and ten grandchildren.

“To us, hope in the Church means that we believe in God, who makes and keeps His promises, who sent down His Son to save us so that we might belong to Him. We believe that following Jesus’ example will lead to a better life for ourselves and for others. We have hope that by living a life pleasing to God, we will one day join Him in eternal life.

We feel hope for our Diocese in many ways. Masses are filled with people reverently professing their faith. There is increasing enrollment in Catholic schools and more conversions to the Catholic Church. Evangelization in our pastorates is helping all of us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. Our own grandchildren are benefiting from youth programs like Camp Gray. Through our hope in God, we can look at any situation and feel that God will provide us with what we need. Please join us again this year in supporting the ACA.”

— Fred and Debbie Schwartz

