

Come Holy Spirit and Renew the Face of the Earth!

**“Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and enkindle in them
the fire of your love.**

**Send forth your Spirit,
and they shall be created,
and you shall renew
the face of the earth.”**

TRADITIONAL INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DRAWING ON THE LANGUAGE OF
PSALM 104 AND THE CREATION ACCOUNT IN GENESIS.



**Diocesan
Appeal**

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

New logo! (Formerly The Bishop's Appeal)



Diocesan Appeal

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Please give prayerful reflection to your Diocesan Appeal gift and your weekly parish offertory gift and place them among your highest charitable priorities as your Catholic Church strives to serve its mission and your family for a lifetime of generations!

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Holy Spirit inspires each of us to find a deeper sense of our individual missions and then to help one another to discover them to serve each other. The Holy Spirit helps us put things together - how can the gifts that I have and the gifts that you have come together in a rich tapestry that is shared? This is Jesus' Church - Jesus came with a wonderful message that when we pause to listen, it is life-transforming and energizing. The ways in which we do this as community and ultimately in our roles as Christians, is to introduce others to Jesus - don't we need this more than ever? We are fortunate to have a diocesan family to lift us together in these responsibilities. As you contemplate your investment in this year's Diocesan Appeal, I pray you are inspired by these small insights into the work by the Diocese on behalf of each parish. Your support of both your parish offertory and the Diocesan Appeal are the most fundamental ways to ensure the health and vitality of our entire Catholic community of 126 parishes in 14 counties, serving you in the day-to-day and milestone moments of your life. God Bless!



+Edward B. Scharfenberger

Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D.
Bishop of Albany

A family cares for its members



Allowing a parish to focus on spiritual ministry to their community rather than being overwhelmed by

the necessary administrative elements of running a small business such as a parish is a fundamental piece to the role of the Diocese. Fr. Frisoni – pastor of the Church of St. Adalbert, St. Paul the Apostle, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Schenectady as well as Judicial Vicar for the Diocese – shares, “Imagine if there were no diocese and each parish were on its own to comply with requirements of law, regulations, codes, etc. – this would be very problematic. There are a multitude of ways I ask for assistance from the Diocese and I am not alone - it comes to the aid of each parish for every day needs and, on occasion, emergencies.” Fr. Frisoni adds, “A family cares for its members. The Diocesan Appeal is an expression of support for all our parish families.” So true! Our diocesan family includes parishes flush with staff, resources and parishioners and many that are not. Gifts in support of the Diocesan Appeal are an investment to ensure all 126 of our local sister parishes have access to the tools they need to provide a thriving Catholic faith community.

A sample of your Diocesan Appeal impact:

Human Resources provides services to each parish and school for: compliance with state & federal labor law mandates, recruitment, staff training, performance management, benefits administration, as well as safe environment (children’s safety) policies & programs, etc.

Property management staff provide expertise around maintenance & repair, vendor contracts, leases, equipment purchases/replacements, insurance, etc. For example, this team frequently saves parishes from overspending on building repairs like roofing, HVAC replacement, parking lot pavement, and facilities management contracts.

Finance office experts provide all payroll services for parish staff, financial oversight & expertise, assistance with maintenance of financial records & controls in accordance with legal requirements of running a small business.

Information technology staff provide web, computer & video expertise and assists with equipment purchasing.

Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation provides training & resources to the 2,000+ catechists who lead a variety of lay ministries for parishes such as faith formation (for nearly 12,000 students annually) & youth ministry, sacramental preparation (marriage, baptism, confirmation, etc.), and more. These ministries are not only of significant assistance to the pastor & parish life coordinator but they also bring the Gospel message to the people of the parish and its wider community.

Impact on Vulnerable Neighbors

“A hand-up, not a hand-out” - As a private nurse, Sarah loved her job and was making enough money to support herself while seeing and caring for people in their homes but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Albany area, Sarah’s world quickly changed. With many of her clients particularly vulnerable to contracting the virus, nearly all were unable to have visitors and Sarah began to work fewer and fewer hours until she eventually fell behind on rent.

In Sarah’s time of need, Catholic Charities was there. Through the Emergency Assistance Program, Sarah was able to get the support she needed - around \$1,600 - to cover her back rent and support her family until she was able to get back on her feet. Now Sarah is back at work caring for her clients, without having to worry about keeping a roof over her head. Unfortunately, in any given year there are many people like Sarah who need help...just one way your Diocesan Appeal gift goes to work!

In 2020, Catholic Charities served over 125,000 people in the Diocese as a part of the CC MOVE initiative. This year, they have already surpassed that number, serving over 150,000 of our neighbors. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities, in partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, has provided our Diocese with roughly 3 million pounds of fresh, frozen and shelf-stable food.



A sample of your Diocesan Appeal impact:

The impact of this program alone costs pennies per person served but Catholic Charities offers so much more through their mission providing hope, compassion, and healing to meet human need at all stages of life.

Transformative Learning

Amanda Goyer, principal of Sacred Heart School in Troy, NY (Pre-K to 6), is in her 15th year in education. Schools remain a significant area of focus during the continuing pandemic. “Our Diocesan Catholic schools always band together. While there were hiccups along the way last year with uncharted territory like virtual learning and students participating both in-person and remote, I am so proud of the year-end outcomes for our teachers, students and their families,” Amanda shared. The Diocesan Schools office supports 22 schools which cross 7 different counties with individual rules, regulations and requirements from 7 departments of health.

The Schools Office was the navigator through the governmental and healthcare rollercoaster and their success is measured by the full expanse of schools remaining open for the full academic year and the increased enrollment seen in many Diocesan schools this incoming year. A portion of your Diocesan Appeal gift is invested in the growth of these roots of our Catholic faith inspired by Christ the Teacher, providing a transformative learning experience in an evangelizing community.



A sample of your Diocesan Appeal impact:

Professional administrative services to supplement small-scale on-site school administrative staff, providing guidance on curriculum and academic rigor, special education & student services, NYS rules & regulations, etc.

Financial assistance to each of our four Diocesan Catholic high schools to narrow the gap between the real education cost per student vs the stated tuition for nearly 800 students.

Future Shepherds

Fr. Stephen Yusko, ordained on June 19, 2021, shares his path to the priesthood: “I was a typical guy growing up – I loved sports, hanging out with friends, while school and Church were simply things I attended. When my plans to play baseball in college fell through my sophomore year due to an injury, I was forced to reevaluate my life and so, I turned to my God for help. During this time of rediscovering my faith, I found help through a biography of St. Ignatius, and St. Augustine’s Confessions. A chance discovery of a hidden rosary during my junior year led me to regular prayer, and the grace of frequent reception of the sacraments, however, despite various signs of a call to the priesthood, I desired marriage and a family. Fast-forward several years, following an initial job working for the NYS Assembly, and other undeniable signs from God, I realized that I had to follow Him. Looking back on my years in seminary,

I am incredibly grateful to the donors of the Diocesan Appeal because their generous gifts helped to pay in-full my 6 years of seminary; a gift that allowed me to discern that God was calling me to be a priest without worrying about the financial burden that often accompanies our studies. In this way, Appeal donors are actively contributing to the growth of the priesthood. That is, you are helping seminarians by bearing some of the weight of the discernment process by removing the financial burden from them, and therefore, making it easier for them to discern whether or not God is calling them to be a priest. It takes a community to raise up a priest, both temporally and spiritually. And so, I would like to say thank you for helping my brothers and I along the way, for you made it easier for us to utter our yes to our Good God, and become priests for you, and for all of the people of God.”



Fr. Stephen Yusko (left); Fr. Matthew Duclos (right)

A sample of your Diocesan Appeal impact:

Approximately one-third (1/3) of Diocesan Appeal revenue each year pays for the education expenses of the seminarians (deacons and priests) who currently are 40 in number.



Diocesan Appeal

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Cost to raise \$1 for the Diocesan Appeal is 5¢
compared to the national fundraising average of 20¢.

