



CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2014

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

-Matthew 6:21



DIOCESE of VENICE
IN FLORIDA

1000 PINEBROOK ROAD • VENICE, FL 34285 • PHONE: 941-486-4719 • WWW.DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG

What is the Catholic Faith Appeal and what are its proceeds used for?

The Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) is a Diocesan-wide fundraising effort to support programs such as: Pastoral Outreach & Ministries; missions, poor parishes and convents; Catholic Charities; Evangelization; Worship; Respect Life; Peace & Social Justice; Vocations & Seminarians; Catholic Education; Diocesan administrative support services; etc. On an annual basis, parishes in the Diocese of Venice make a required contribution to financially support these efforts. The Catholic Faith Appeal is a means by which all parishioners can take part in helping their parish to meet its contribution. A parish Catholic Faith Appeal goal is determined by the income of the parish. It is not based on the number of registered families because our population grows in the winter months from northern visitors. They greatly add to the success of the Appeal.

How does the CFA benefit my parish and me?

Thousands of Catholics in the Diocese are directly or indirectly served through Diocesan agencies and programs funded through the Catholic Faith Appeal. In addition, a portion of the money that is pledged over goal will be returned to your parish for its own programs and services.

Why does Catholic Charities do additional fundraising?

Approximately 14% of the Diocesan budget is given to Catholic Charities to help support its very worthwhile presence in our Diocese. However, this amount is only a percentage of the money needed to carry out its work. In addition to what the Diocese is able to provide, further fundraising is required.

Why are the administrative services included?

The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Christ. To do so requires the Diocese to oversee more than 1000 employees in our schools, parishes and agencies. A commercial business would produce an income, but in the Church the parishioners are the primary source of income.

Why are there so many mailings?

More than 5 million dollars of the appeal comes to us through the mailings. Once you have responded to a CFA mailing or made a gift through your parish, mailings to you will stop with the exception of a thank you letter and tax receipt at the end of the year.

Tax receipts are sent to anyone who gives a gift of \$250 or more, which is required by the IRS. It is always wise to keep receipts of your charitable giving for audit purposes.

How much should I give?

As stewards, we should take the time to reflect on our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure. Giving back to God, either through contributions to our parish or the CFA, should involve a sacrifice, one that reflects God's generosity to us individually. Therefore, your gift is a personal decision between you and God, and should be made after prayerful consideration.

Should I make a pledge or a one-time gift?

Making a pledge allows you to spread your gift throughout the year, which may make it easier for you to pay, and may also allow you to give a larger gift. Pledge statements are sent out monthly unless otherwise requested. These are simply reminders and not bills. You can pay your pledge anytime before the end of the year. If your situation changes, you may also adjust your pledge.

How can I make my gift?

We try to make your giving as easy as possible! You can make a gift through checks, credit cards, direct debit, online giving at www.dioceseofvenice.org, bequests, charitable gift annuities, matching gift programs, and approved gifts of real estate. Give us a call and we'll happily answer your questions. 941-486-4719.

One of the departments supported by the CFA is the Office of Evangelization. It coordinates:

1) Marriage Preparation Program (One participant's comments)

“The Marriage Preparation class was a true blessing. We discovered that we did not have a deep understanding of the Marriage sacrament and related church doctrine, and we walked out of that class at the end of the day fully changed and inspired. We have also signed up for other classes, after the loving and gentle encouragement of our workshop teachers, who were phenomenal instructors in educating us on this beautiful sacrament. Thank you so much for requiring this workshop for ALL couples, because it put us on the right path. What a blessing!”

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- Matthew 6:21



2) Bible Study Training

Betty is a life-long Catholic who has faithfully attended Mass her entire life and is an active member of her Parish. But there is one part of Catholic life that to this day still intimidates her: the Bible. Although she hears Scripture readings at every Mass and has read parts of the Bible on her own, she doesn't feel like she understands the “Big Picture” of the Scriptures. To help Betty and many other Catholics like her, the Diocese of Venice held a Bible Study Training to facilitate the formation of study groups in Parishes. Whether in youth groups, religious education or adult faith formation settings, all are enabled to know better the Word of God. This training, which had attendees representing Parishes throughout the Diocese, prepared leaders to conduct Bible Studies which allow Catholics, whether long-time parishioners like Betty or those new to the faith, to better understand the Scriptures and to see the integral role of the Catholic Church in the story of salvation. Your generosity will allow training such as this to continue.

3) Family Life Outreach

The family has always been considered a key element in the life of the Church; it is the “domestic church,” which in turn participates fully in the life of the universal Church. The importance of the family is demonstrated by the fact that Pope Francis has called for a Synod on “The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization” in order to discuss issues related to this basic unit of society. Likewise, the family has been a core component of Diocesan activities through the years. A recent example of the Diocesan Family Life Outreach is a new support program for Catholics who have experienced the pain of divorce. This program promotes healing and reconciliation, as well as encouraging a deeper embrace of one's Catholic Faith in a time of difficulty.

RETURN THE BLESSINGS THE LORD HAS GIVEN TO YOU BY JOYFULLY AND GENEROUSLY MAKING
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL. GIVE TODAY!