

OPENING DOORS TO WITNESS CHRIST

To live fully as a disciple is to make disciples.
(*Unleash the Gospel*, Marker 9.3: Witness)

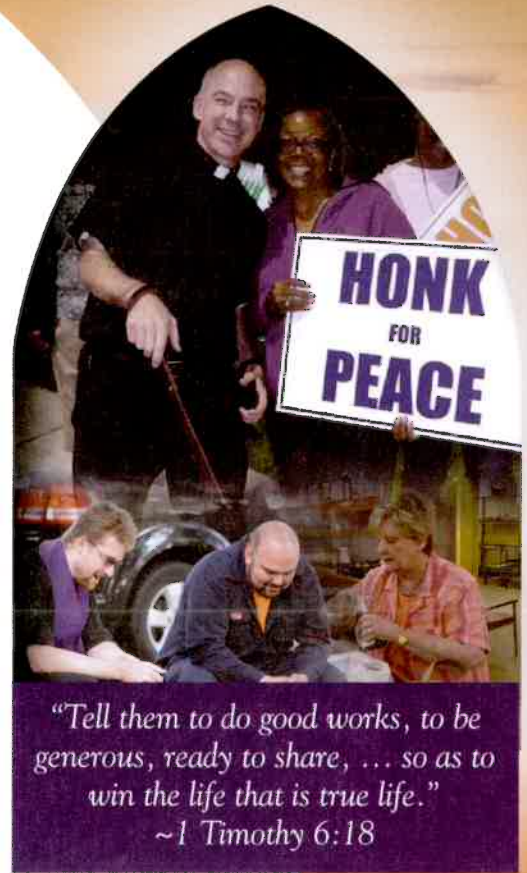
Making Jesus “known by our word and deed” — as Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron asks of us in his pastoral letter, *Unleash the Gospel* — is *Opening Doors to Witness Christ*, the theme of the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal.

The CSA gives us an opportunity to live out our discipleship in Christ through the many benefits our annual appeal provides. These ministries, programs, and services meet the spiritual and physical needs of parishes and countless people throughout the Archdiocese. Our support demonstrates our own Catholic faith as we strive to grow in our love of Jesus as His missionary disciples.

When we embrace the CSA for carrying out the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, we witness Christ, and in turn, we open doors so others may also develop a deeper relationship with Him. We also extend our personal involvement in our local Church beyond our home parishes.

The CSA enables Archbishop Vigneron, his auxiliary bishops, the clergy, religious men and women, and the lay faithful to carry out Christ’s ministry of mercy and love throughout southeast Michigan and beyond — works no one individual or parish could possibly do alone.

Please take a moment to read how gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal are helping your brothers and sisters in Christ witness our Lord in southeast Michigan.



A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP ALLEN H. VIGNERON



I am heartened at how the faithful of the Archdiocese embrace the spirit of unleashing the Gospel. Through our annual Catholic Services Appeal, we have opened doors to encounter Jesus as well as to grow with him. This year, our theme emboldens us to witness Christ through the ministries, programs, and services the CSA funds.

Fully living as a disciple of Jesus Christ requires following his commission to make disciples — *Opening Doors to Witness Christ* to others. We accomplish this when we allow his Good News to inspire joyful words and deeds each day. As we become conscious witnesses to God’s everlasting mercy, we unleash the Gospel to everyone we meet.

Each year when we support the CSA, we renew this opportunity to witness Jesus. The CSA fuels the engine of the Gospel mission of our Archdiocese. Supporting our annual appeal unites us as a faith community in all of the good works we are able to provide together. The spirit of joining together to witness Christ in carrying out these works of mercy is what Pope Francis envisioned when he encouraged us to become a “joyful band” of missionary disciples.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge to the 2019 CSA, please take a moment to reflect on the many ways your friends and neighbors are able to witness Christ because of the many doors we have opened through the CSA. I am sure you will be inspired to once again make the most generous gift possible.

+Allen H. Vigneron

Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

CSA gifts allow people to *witness Christ* throughout our A



Witnessing Christ as one of His priests

Like many young people, Derik Peterman fell away from the Catholic faith when he went away to college. But when he found his way back to the Church, God reminded him of “this call He had placed in my heart” years before, to serve as one of his holy priests.

Through discernment and exploration, Derik found his spiritual home at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, where he has been preparing to serve as a priest for our Archdiocese for the past six years. “I’ve had a lot of peace — each year growing in that confidence that this is indeed, where the Lord has called me,” he said. “God willing, I’ll be ordained a priest in June.”

Gifts to the CSA support men, like Derik, who are studying for the priesthood at Sacred Heart, as well as men in formation for the permanent diaconate. “I’m looking forward to walking with people in their journeys and helping to bring them closer to Jesus,” Derik said. “However God wants me to serve them.”



Witnessing Christ by welcoming others to our faith

Posie West passed the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament nearly every day with his doors — until a friend invited him inside. Intrigued, he began attending Mass regularly. “A wise man told me once, ‘When God is at work, you sit down and pay attention so you can be a part,’” he said.

Posie soon felt so at home at the Cathedral that he began the process of becoming a Catholic. The Archdiocese of Detroit welcomed him and other candidates and catechumens into the Church through a year of study and formation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). “I received the CSA gifts.

“Understanding the sacraments brought about a new understanding that I was in a relationship with God,” Posie said.



Josh and Caitlin Gibson entered the Church together. A series of “nice little nudges” from Josh, who had been a Catholic since childhood, eventually led Caitlin to join him in exploring the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), sitting in Mass and just feeling so at home in the Church.

Having Josh by her side throughout the process, Caitlin added. “Being able to have him there to ask questions and share the things we learned in class, to get confirmed together was a great experience.”

The two are now helping with RCIA classes at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Waterford, sharing the purpose they have found since becoming Catholics. “It’s great to see others with the same spark I was given through the RCIA process, watching them grow each week in their faith and understanding, and having the same experience to share in the journey of so many people.”

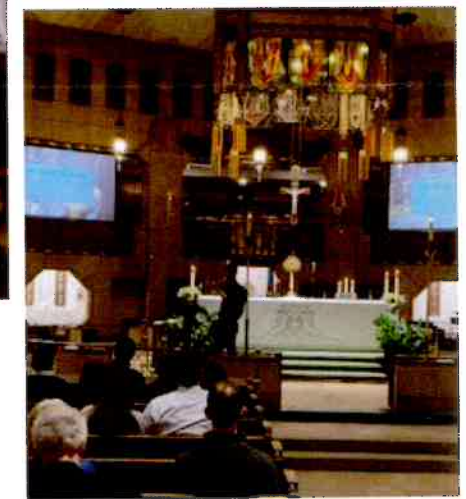
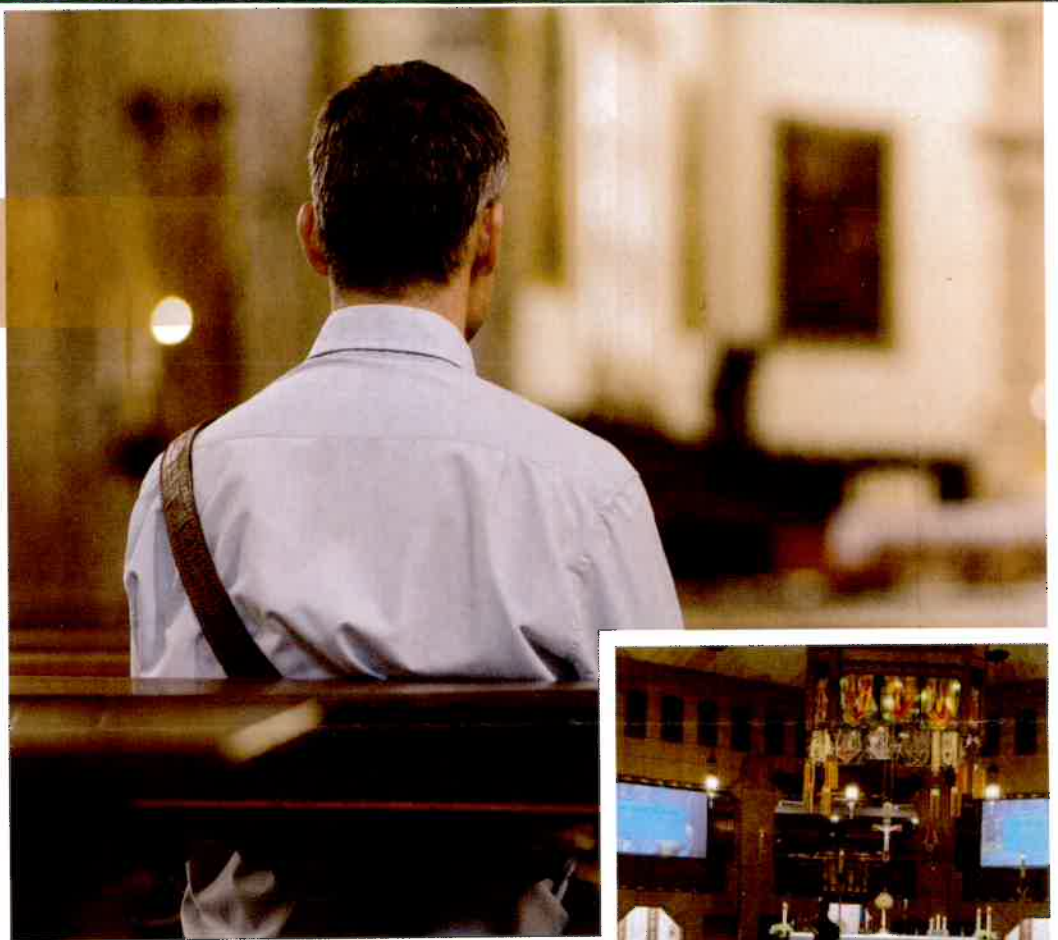
Archdiocese.

Witnessing Christ through vocations

Realizing society's focus on secular careers over vocations, the Office of Priestly Vocations has launched an initiative to encourage young people to discern God's specific plan for them. Held quarterly, "Cultivating the Call" begins with Holy Hour and includes a casual dinner, Adoration, Benediction, inspiring music, and testimonies from priests, religious brothers and sisters, and seminarians.

"Listening to God's call for your life will lead to your ultimate happiness, not choosing the career that gives you the most money or seems most thrilling," said Father Joe Horn, director of Priestly Vocations. "A vocation is not something you do, it's who you are."

The CSA supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life through regional gatherings like "Cultivating the Call" and "The Watchmen," as well as discernment retreats and a vocation day for junior high students at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, and events with Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron.



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the Church," she said.

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ce entering the Church. "It is
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Witnessing Christ in service to those in need

St. Christine's Christian Services remains a beacon of hope in northwest Detroit for those in need of its services. But exactly who benefits most from this ministry of nearby Christ the King Parish may be up for debate.

"It has humbled me more than I could have ever imagined and just made me grateful for every day that I can go there and serve," said Maureen Northrup, a social worker whose position is funded through the Catholic Services Appeal. "I feel like I'm doing the work of a disciple."

Situated in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood, "St. Christine's" provides hot meals and groceries through its soup kitchen and food pantry, as well as clothing and assistance with utilities and tasks many people take for granted, like obtaining a birth certificate, making a photocopy, or reading a document. Clients include the homeless and working poor; families, single parents, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

The Parish Empowerment Fund encourages parishes to initiate or enhance evangelization efforts in their communities, and grants also fund scholarships for lay people at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Last year, the CSA provided more than \$631,000 in PEF grants to parishes and vicariates.



Witnessing Christ in our schools

Each day at Most Holy Trinity Elementary, a specialized charging cart containing 30 laptops travels from classroom to classroom, keeping students at the forefront of technology. “We’re enlightening them,” said Karina Lepkowski, interim principal. “Having these items in our students’ hands is enhancing their educational growth and their understanding of what it means to be a contributing member of the community beyond our walls.”

Students are able to collaborate with peers elsewhere in the world, and the school’s technology instructor guides them in making smart online choices as digital citizens that reflect their Catholic identity.

Most Holy Trinity was able to purchase this technology with a grant from the School Outreach Fund, which is funded through the CSA. The Catholic Schools Office provided more than \$955,190 in grant funding for special projects at archdiocesan schools during the 2017-18 academic year.












YOUR CSA GIFTS AT WORK

Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal makes a difference in countless lives throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit and beyond. The more than 100 ministries, programs, and services the CSA funds are *Opening Doors to Witness Christ* each and every day.

Be assured that no CSA dollars have ever been — or ever will be — used to settle claims of any nature against the Archdiocese, or to support projects outside of the Archdiocese, other than six specific national collections of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The archdiocesan lay Finance Council oversees the distribution of CSA funds to ensure all reach the ministries, programs, and services for which they are intended. (A comprehensive list can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website, at aod.org/csa.)

The budget for the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal is \$17,921,557. The pie chart below illustrates how your CSA gifts did so much for so many last year.



	Mission Grants	\$3,712,362		21.23%
	<i>(Includes grants to Sacred Heart Major Seminary, parishes, schools, and USCCB national collections)</i>			
	Clergy, Vocations, and Consecrated Life	\$2,555,550		14.61%
	Sacred Heart Major Seminary Building and Facilities	\$2,846,071		16.27%
	Evangelization, Catechesis and Education	\$2,646,336		15.13%
	Parish Life and Services	\$1,396,846		7.99%
	Stewardship and Development Programs	\$1,001,715		5.73%
	Communications, Social and Digital Media	\$1,557,364		8.90%
	Metropolitan Tribunal	\$747,124		4.27%
	Parish Support Services (Finance and Administration)	\$1,026,234		5.87%

Witnessing Christ in our parishes

St. Gabriel parishioners respond generously to the Catholic Services Appeal each year because they know the importance of returning the blessings God has given them, according to Father Marc Gawronski, pastor.

“We’re not a rich parish, by any means — we’re a parish of people who live paycheck-to-paycheck and who have jobs that pay by the hour without any insurance,” Father Gawronski said. “Our folks live with lots of daily challenges, but they’re still very grateful to God, and they’re still very generous when it comes to CSA.”

The predominately Hispanic parishioners in southwest Detroit see the benefits of the annual appeal, such as in the younger priests who minister to them in Spanish and in the opportunity to earn certifications in lay ministry at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. St. Gabriel’s vibrant faith formation program has also flourished, in part because of the formation and support parish catechists receive — in Spanish — from the Archdiocese. As a result of the growth in religious education students, two confirmation celebrations were needed this year in order to accommodate all of the children and their families in the church.

St. Gabriel identifies a project each year to fund with gifts collected over the parish’s CSA target, as they are returned 100 percent free of the archdiocesan assessment. This year’s project: to restore a bell for the church’s bell tower.

“In any town in Mexico or Latin America, whenever there’s Mass, a bell rings to evangelize people, to remind people that it’s time to come to gather to pray,” Father Gawronski said. “It’s a sound people long to hear, so we’re looking forward to restoring that bell with the help of the generosity of our parishioners through the CSA.”



‘The important part of the CSA is really supporting the work of the Church and the Archdiocese in every parish, in all kinds of populations.’

~ Father Gawronski

CONSIDER A PLEDGE TO THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

The Catholic Services Appeal is a pledge program. While one-time cash gifts are welcomed, pledging often allows for more generous — and affordable — contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal.

With a pledge, you can spread out your CSA gift over several months and incorporate this sacrifice into your family budget. You have the option of making an initial payment when you fill out your pledge card, then paying the remaining balance with nine additional monthly payments.

GIFT OPPORTUNITIES USING THE 10-PAYMENT PLAN

Gift amount	Initial payment	9 monthly payments	Daily sacrifice
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$27.40
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$13.70
\$ 2,000	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 5.48
\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 2.74
\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 1.37
\$ 300	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 0.82

Online Giving

Online giving helps the Archdiocese of Detroit answer our Holy Father’s call to care for “our common home.” Online payments allow the CSA Office to save on postage and paper, because they eliminate the need for monthly mailings. With thousands of generous donors contributing to the CSA each year, this amounts to a considerable environmental savings — and is good stewardship.

We encourage you to set up your gift or pledge online at give.aod.org. Please specify your parish on the donation form. If you choose not to use the online giving portal, but would like to make your pledge payments electronically, you may call (888) 331-8695.



For information about the ministries, programs, and services funded by the CSA, please go to the Archdiocese of Detroit website, at aod.org/csa.