

Parish ministries are almost entirely funded by what we call ordinary income – collections. A small percentage comes from program fees, interest income from our savings account, donations for Mass Intentions or other items, etc. For the most part, the money you drop in the Sunday collection basket, or that you give online or through your company, is what buys all the supplies we use – whether paper or copier contract in the office, coffee and donuts for after Mass, or hosts and wine and candles for Mass or flowers for the church. It funds the materials we use for all of our faith formation and sacramental prep programs, as well as our contributions to helping fund Catholic education. It funds our surface water fees, and at MQP our property taxes (the other two are exempt under state law for church size and school size), along with natural gas and electricity and water costs. It supports our social events. We have an assessment from the Archdiocese that supports their ministry and business operations, so many of which support parishes – Human Resources, Payroll, the Tribunal, etc. Of course, the largest portion of our expense budget is staff pay and benefits – those who do so much of the work. Our income levels determine our staffing levels. The budget which funds our mission is dependent upon our donors and their sacrificial giving. I have put 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financials on our Partners website for those who wish to see them – [www.mqp.org/partners](http://www.mqp.org/partners).

But there are ministries beyond individual parishes in the local Church. On Pill Hill in Seattle, there is a full-time hospital chaplain who spends each day visiting the five major hospitals. The position is funded by the Annual Catholic Appeal. We have a smaller hospital grant in our deanery, which is used to coordinate our on-call system for the hospitals and sick calls. Chaplains who visit the King County jail and the detention center to see to the spiritual needs of the imprisoned, carrying out this important spiritual work of mercy, are funded by the ACA. The formation of our seminarians, our future priests, as well as our future permanent deacons, including one from MQP, is funded by the ACA. Our CYO camps (registration now open!) just up the road, great opportunities for our youth to engage with one another and the faith in this outdoors setting, are partially funded by fees, and partially funded by the ACA. There are many ministries which are only possible through the ACA. The budget which funds our wider mission is dependent upon our donors and their sacrificial giving. For those who are curious about the Archdiocesan budget, you can find their Annual Report at [www.archseattle.org/aca](http://www.archseattle.org/aca).

This weekend we are launching the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal. The work of the Church needs your gifts and support. In addition, anything donated above a parish's goal comes back to the individual parish as a rebate, which allows us to continue investing in our maintenance and facilities needs, to care for the campuses which foster our community life. Thank you to those who made a pledge this weekend at Mass. For those who didn't, thank you for praying about what your gift will be this year and turning it in next weekend, as we all join together to continue the work and mission of Jesus Christ.