



SO FAITH MAY FLOURISH

Catholic Services Appeal

My dear friends in Christ,

Picture a mosaic in which every small piece contributes to the beauty and meaning of the larger image. Each piece, no matter its shape, size or color has a place, and an important role to play in forming the image. As members of the Church in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, we form a mosaic of faith. We may live in separate communities, worship in different parishes, and serve in various ministries; but our Catholic faith unites us in service to God, each other and our neighbors.

Like a beautiful mosaic, our faith is full of rich and vibrant pieces that come together to witness to the world that we are followers of Christ. One way we can all unite as Catholics is through our annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). The CSA provides parishioners across our 11-county diocese the opportunity to come together as one, supporting our parishes, schools, and ministries, all of which benefit thousands of people.

Over the next two years you may notice a change in your parish's CSA goal as we work to provide for the future of the Church through our Catholic schools. For the past three years, funding for the Bishop's Catholic Schools Initiative has come mostly from diocesan savings. We have evidence that this Initiative is working. Our Catholic schools have recorded three straight years of enrollment growth. I believe all parishes need to share in the common responsibility of educating children in the Catholic faith. Therefore, part of the overall Catholic Services Appeal goal will be dedicated to funding the implementation of the "Catholic Schools: Bridging Faith and Future" strategic plan. The enclosed letter details this important funding change. Please see your pastor or parish business manager if you have questions.

We all have a part to play in building up the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. The enclosed brochure details how CSA funds are used. Inside, you'll also find a pledge card and return envelope enclosed for your convenience in giving this year. The annual diocesan report chronicling the ministries supported by your CSA contribution was published in the October edition of *FAITH Grand Rapids* magazine, and may also be found here: <http://bit.ly/DOGRAnnualRep16-17>.

Let us join together to witness to the world the beauty of our faith *So Faith May Flourish*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids