



VIII. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How was the Bishop's Appeal Goal of \$1 million determined? How are the parish goals determined?

A: Considering the needs and resources for the diocesan ministries, the diocese decided to keep the 2026 goal of \$1 million. Parish goals are determined by a formula based on parish offertory income over a given period while also considering the historical performance of the parish's appeal efforts.

Q: Will any of these funds be used for anything other than the defined ministries?

A: No. Funds through the Bishop's Appeal will be used exclusively for the ministries noted. Gifts are restricted for the purposes of the ministries of the appeal only.

Q: What if my parish exceeds its goal? Where does the excess go?

A: Our focus this year is on INCREASING PARTICIPATION and building a community of one Catholic family supporting our diocese. We highly encourage each parish to focus on participation and to work towards reaching its financial goal and beyond. All funds that are received go towards the overall diocesan goal and are distributed based on the allocated percentages. Note that the percentages may change based on changing needs throughout the year.

Q: What type of gifts will be accepted?

A: Gifts are accepted via check, credit card, or through monthly payments. We also accept gifts of stock/appreciated securities, IRA distributions and other similar methods. Please get in touch with Logan Crosby or Amy Ponson for different payment types.

Q: How will the progress of the appeal be communicated to the parishes?

A: A weekly update will be provided on the Bishop's Appeal Webpage under Parish Resources, listed as Parish Goals and updates.



Q: Can a parishioner restrict a gift to one or more programs or ministries?

A: No. Appeal funds are allocated across ministries based on current needs. However, if someone feels called, they can contact Amy Ponson at aponson@htdiocese.org or 985-850-3116 at the Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana to learn more about how to give to a specific ministry.

Q: How will my parish receive credit for parishioner gift?

A: On the direct mail pledge card of the appeal letter, a household registered parish will be printed. Please encourage your parishioners to double-check their parish on this card and make corrections if needed. For gifts sent in the pew envelopes, there is a place for your parishioners to write in Church Parish. For online gifts, parishioners must select their parish before submitting payment.

Q: Where can I find appeal materials?

A: All appeal materials can be found on the Bishop's appeal webpage under Parish Resources. <https://htdiocese.org/parish-resources>

