

HOPE

does not disappoint

2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

YEAR IN REVIEW



DIOCESE of
MADISON



FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). In this Year of Jubilee, your generosity is a sign of renewal and a beacon of hope. Jesus gave us a two-fold commandment to follow: Love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind; and love our neighbor as ourselves. When we support the mission of the Church, we embrace the Lord's command to love. The call to preach the Gospel, to celebrate the Sacraments, to form our children in the Faith, to feed the poor, and to house the homeless is ever-present in our diocese. Together, we have responded as the hands and feet of Christ, participating in His mission to build the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

As we close this year's Appeal, I offer my heartfelt gratitude and prayers. Thank you for your support in 2025 and for your continued generosity as we look ahead to 2026, *Inspired by the Spirit*.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison



THANK YOU FOR THE MANY WAYS YOU SERVE THE LORD AND THE CHURCH.

10,979 Donors

\$4.2
Million

2025
Annual Catholic
Appeal Goal

\$4.63
Million

Pledged
to Date

\$4.53
Million

Paid
to Date

1,123

Lumen Christi
Members
(those who donate \$1,000+)

407

Perpetual Steward
Society Members
(continuous monthly givers)

\$422

Average
Gift Amount

712

First time givers
to the ACA in 2025

As of Oct 1, 2025

SAINTS FOR OUR TIME: FRASSATI AND ACUTIS INSPIRE A NEW GENERATION IN THE DIOCESE OF MADISON

The Catholic Church canonized Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis on September 7, 2025. These two models of holiness inspire hope in the hearts of young people across the Diocese of Madison. Their legacy lives on through local initiatives like Frassati Fest and the Saint Carlo Acutis Academy.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati is the namesake of Frassati Fest, a weekend retreat offering high school teens opportunities to encounter Christ through the Sacraments and Eucharistic Adoration, engage in personal and communal prayer, and bond in faith with other teens from across the diocese. This year's event was held February 7–9, 2025 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, with more than 325 teens and adult chaperones in attendance.

Saint Carlo Acutis Academy is an online school enabling any family in the diocese and beyond to receive a quality education in academics and faith. The school is in its fourth year and serves students in grades 5–12. One mother shared the many ways that Saint Carlo Acutis Academy has benefitted her children.

“The flexibility of this academy has allowed my children to maintain an education level and focus during challenging times. The class offerings coupled with faith reminders provide a good balance. The administration involvement and immediate teacher responses outside scheduled class times makes this program feel like a community-focused, parent-involved education.”

—Jodi, Mom to two Saint Carlo Acutis Academy students



MARRIAGE RETREAT: OFFERING SUPPORT FOR LIFELONG LOVE

In February, 15 couples in their first six years of marriage gathered for the diocese's first-ever Rooted Marriage Retreat. Thanks to sponsorship from the ACA, these couples experienced a day of rest, renewal, and deep connection. Couples learned practical tools for communication and how to dream together, while also having time for prayer, mentoring, and a bit of fun, with dance lessons at the end of the retreat. A highlight was a testimony of how Natural Family Planning (NFP) has blessed one couple's marriage. The impact was clear in the feedback: Couples felt supported and spiritually nourished.

During the next three years, the diocese plans to offer resources and training to strengthen marriages and invest in families to support their growth in love, faith, and community. This will include forming "Building Eucharistic Marriage" teams at parishes, offering "This Old Spouse" retreats for couples 55 and older, and lay the groundwork to train marriage coaches to serve our parishes through "Adventures in Marriage".



Marriage Retreat