



FR DENNIS' TALKING POINTS

NHCA April 2023

In 2019, the Diocese of Manchester conducted a study of our collections, fundraising programs, and overall financial needs of ministries and locations across the state. As a result, in the spring of 2022, Bishop Libasci decided to implement the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal in about half of our parishes.

The Bishop says that this Appeal is dedicated to strengthening the mission of our Church across the state, including: education of seminarians and investment in vocations, care of our retired clergy, Catholic education, parishes in need and individual parish support, missionaries and multicultural ministry, evangelization and Parable magazine, and the charitable works of the Church enabled by Catholic Charities NH.

Traditionally each year, parishes have conducted an Appeal to support Catholic Charities. The Bishop has included in the new appeal initiative the traditional spring campaign for Catholic Charities NH. And so, moving forward, we will no longer conduct a separate parish appeal for this important ministry.

Catholic Charities N.H. is a vital service to our state, and it responds to those in need with programs that heal, comfort, and empower. Catholic Charities will receive a significant portion of the NHCA proceeds to continue and expand their charitable ministries - the charitable mission of the Church will be an essential part of this Appeal and will hopefully not suffer unnecessary revenue loss.

Please note that the NHCA appeal does not fully fund Catholic Charities nor has it in the past as the Catholic Charities parish appeal only represented about 30% of their overall fundraising.

This year all parishes will participate in the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal. The Appeal is very important for the present and future of the Church of New Hampshire. By making this one fundraising campaign each year, we hope that you will be able to make a meaningful gift and help our ministries to reach more people in our diocese with the message of Christ's love.

Approximately 95%, of revenue will go towards ministry, education, and parishes. The goal is for less than 5% of revenue to be spent on administering the NHCA.

The 2022 administrative costs were higher as they included initial set up costs and fixed costs. The intent of the Diocese is to keep these costs as low as possible.

No funds will go towards diocesan administration, the bishop's office, or any clergy abuse settlements or law suits.

Parishes will get to keep any income raised above our set fundraising goal. Goals are set at 10% of the average of the last three years of our assessable income. Additionally, our assessment (our payments to the diocese for administration and operations) will be lowered.

Parishioners will have a variety of ways to give to the NHCA (online, in-pew, etc.) and, as many of the second collections are being eliminated, will receive less envelopes. The second collections being eliminated in 2023 are:

Seminarian Fund
Support Fund for Poor Parishes
NH Missionaries Abroad and Migrant & Refugee Ministry in NH
Catholic University of America and USCCB
NH Priest Retirement Fund
Catholic Charities NH Spring Appeal
Parable Magazine Drive - this annual drive will no longer take place.
You can expect 3-4 mailings will come from the NHCA and Bishop Libasci to your home.

The goal that the Bishop has set for our parish is: \$54,644.00. How did he come to that goal? The parish d as 10% of the parish average assessable income over the last three fiscal years. Due to Covid concerns, they excluded fiscal year 2020 from the calculation. This year's calculation was 10% of the average assessable income for fiscal years 2022, 2021, and 2019. The goal formula will be reviewed after the 2023 appeal cycle.

I know that you may ask what all pastors have asked: What happens if a parish does not make their goal? ANSWER: If a parish does not reach its goal, it will be assessed (billed) the remainder. An abatement program is available for parishes who may qualify (and the difference will not be assessed).

Thank you for your continued support of our parish; and I hope that you will help us reach our goal that that our parish savings will not be impacted. God bless you.

FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION
TO GO

www.catholicnh.org/nhca