

What is the Bishop's Ministry Appeal (BMA)?

The BMA is an annual campaign to raise funds that support the programs and ministries serving the people of the Diocese of Stockton.

Your gift to the BMA will provide needed funds to support the following ministries of the Diocese of Stockton & your parish:

- Bishop's Ministry Appeal
- Bishop's Office
- Catholic Schools
- Clergy Services
- Communications
- Deacon Formation
- Diocesan Councils
- Evangelization & Faith Formation
- Family & Respect Life Ministry (Marriage & Family Life and Life & Dignity Ministries)
- Hispanic Apostolate
- Marriage Tribunal
- Migrant Ministries
- Safe Environment
- School of Ministry
- Social Ministries
- University Campus Ministries
- Victim Assistance Ministry
- Vocations
- Worship/Spirituality
- Youth/Young Adult Ministries

How do I give to the Bishop's Ministry Appeal (BMA)?

WAYS TO GIVE

Your tax-deductible gift to the Bishop's Ministry Appeal will make a difference. Your gift will be applied to your parish's goal. Once your parish reaches its goal, 100% of all funds over the parish goal are returned to the parish from the Bishop's Ministry Appeal Trust.

GIFTS BY CHECK

Checks should be made payable to the Bishop's Ministry Appeal Trust. Please mail your check in the pledge response envelope. Please make sure your parish name is written on the memo section of your check.

GIFTS BY CREDIT CARD OR DIRECT DEBIT FROM BANK ACCOUNT

Gifts can be made using your bank account, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card. Simply provide your credit card details or bank details on your pledge envelope or online.

ONLINE GIFTS

Gifts can be made on our safe, secure and convenient site at: StocktonDiocese.org/BMA

THANK YOU

Your gift and pledge commitments are greatly appreciated.



BISHOP'S MINISTRY APPEAL

Supporting the Ministries of the Diocese of Stockton



DIOCESE OF STOCKTON



StocktonDiocese.org/BMA



(209) 466-0636



give@stocktondiocese.org



212 North San Joaquin Street, Stockton, CA 95202

Thanks to the BMA, we continue:



Serving migrant workers and their families through our Migrant Ministry Program – approximately 500 families are served annually;



Collaborating with men (& their wives) who will serve our Diocese as deacons – currently, over 60 deacons are providing ministry services for our Diocese;



Hosting the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession in downtown Stockton – over 10,000 Catholics attend this event each year;



Providing formation training, curriculum resources, and support to our Catechists, families, and parishes – over 19,500 children and youth are taught weekly by more than 1,800 catechists.



"A Catholic education provides a safe environment to pursue an excellent academic education. It provides an environment which fosters parental involvement and community, and an opportunity to be evangelized and catechized as a family. All of this empowers us to move forward, Christ-centered, as the Diocese of Stockton."

- BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA



Seminarians Patrick Germann, Michael Kelley, and Joshua Lesan, Fr. John Foster, and Bishop Cotta

Seminarian Michael Kelley completed his M.A. in Theology through the Echo Program at the University of Notre Dame and the Department of Theology. Michael shares, *"...while I was in Echo, I began to feel the call more strongly than ever before. I knew that this time I had to do something about it, so I decided to apply to my diocese. Since I made that decision, God has continually confirmed that this is the path He wants me to walk."*

"In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."

- POPE FRANCIS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As your Bishop, I am deeply thankful for your prayers and support of our annual Bishop's Ministry Appeal (BMA). The Bishop's Ministry Appeal helps to sustain our numerous diocesan ministries which provide for the educational and spiritual needs of thousands of families every year.

The BMA makes it possible for us to continue the important mission of evangelization through our ministries -

- proclaiming the Gospel;
- celebrating the sacraments;
- educating our children;
- serving our parish and school communities and
- caring for our priests and religious.

If we truly profess Jesus as Lord of our lives, this includes every aspect of our lives, even our time, our talent and that of our treasure. Sharing of our "treasure" is a way of expressing our gratitude to God for all the gifts He has bestowed upon us - we acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, and we offer it back to Him for His glory.

In the spirit of *opening our hearts*, I encourage all to express gratefulness for the gifts that God has given us, and to prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to sustain the good work being done throughout our Diocese.

May the Lord bless you and keep you always in His love and may the joy and peace of Christ fill your hearts. Many thanks for your prayers and continued support!



In the Peace of Christ,

+ *Myron J. Cotta*

Most Reverend Myron J. Cotta
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton