

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What is the Bishop's Ministries Appeal?

A The Bishop's Ministries Appeal is an annual campaign to generate funds to cover the costs of the Diocese of Oakland's ministries, programs, and services. It is a direct appeal to the people of the diocese, urging their support in the form of a pledge or a gift to supplement the ministry budget. The total budget for the diocesan-wide ministries and services is roughly \$6.28 million. While income is generated to support the budget through parish assessments, rent collection on property, and service fees and interest on the diocesan investments, this income does not fully meet the budgetary needs of all diocesan ministries, programs, and services. The Bishop's Ministries Appeal was established to raise funds to meet the shortfall.

Q What does the Bishop's Ministries Appeal Fund?

A The Bishop's Ministries Appeal supports the following vital ministries:

PASTORAL MINISTRIES & SERVICES

Diocesan pastoral ministries and services focus on strengthening our faith, our families, and building up our parish communities by engaging our people in the daily life of the Church as they strive to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

- Liturgy
- Youth Retreat Center
- Respect Life & Justice Programs
- Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)
- Vietnamese, Filipino & Latino Ministries
- Catholic Scouting
- Ethnic Pastoral Centers
- Young Adult Ministries
- Marriage & Family Life
- Children & Youth Ministries
- Marriage Preparation Programs
- Safe Environment Programs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FORMATION

Gifts to the appeal help support religious education and formation programs for thousands of youths and adults annually.

- Faith Formation Programs
- Evangelization and Outreach Efforts
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
- Religious Education Teachers' Training
- Serra Catechetical Institute
- St. Francis de Sales School for Pastoral Ministry

Frequently Asked Questions, *continued*

CLERGY FORMATION & SUPPORT

From initial formation into retirement, the diocese provides support for our priests. Additionally, continued updating and renewal for priests and deacons who faithfully serve our people is supported by your gift to the Bishop's Appeal.

- Permanent Diaconate Program
- Office of Vocations
- Seminarian Education & Formation
- Priest Retirement & Long-term Care
- Continuing Education Programs

SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & PARISHES IN NEED

Each year, the diocese provides subsidies and grants to assist with operating expenses at our inner-city Catholic schools and for parishes and faith communities that are facing extraordinary and immediate financial challenges.

- Operating Subsidies
- Capital Expenditure Grants
- Emergency Funding Support

ASSISTING LOCAL PARISHES

Every parish has its own needs and plans for growth and new ministries to better serve its parishioners and the local community. The Bishop's Ministries Appeal will again return 100% of all monies collected over each parish's goal for use at the parish level.

Q How was the Bishop's Appeal goal of \$3 million determined? How are parish goals determined?

A In 2023, the amount raised was \$2.73 million. Considering the needs and costs of diocesan programs and ministries, the diocese decided to keep the 2024 goal at \$3 million. Parish goals are determined by unrestricted parish revenue over a given period.

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

A 100% of all funds collected over a parish's goal will be returned to the parish for its own special needs in the form of rebate checks paid at the conclusion of the Appeal (i.e. first quarter 2025).

Q Does my parish have to pay assessments on our Bishop's Ministries Appeal rebates?

A Bishop's Ministries Appeal rebates are not assessed (taxed) by the diocese.

Frequently Asked Questions, *continued*

Q. What happens if my parish does not meet its established goal?

A. Some parishes may not meet their goals due to financial hardship and many other factors. OMA is happy to work with parish staff to increase parishioner support of the Appeal in any way we can. In some cases, it may be necessary to adjust a parish's goal based on fluctuations in parish revenue.

Q. Does my parish have to achieve its goal to receive the parish rebate?

A. Yes. Since rebates are given for all funds received over and above the goal, your parish must exceed its goal in order to receive a rebate. Rebates are based on cash received, not pledges made. The diocese cannot make payments on incomplete pledges.

Q. Will any of these funds be used for anything other than the defined case elements?

A. No. Funds raised through the Bishop's Ministries Appeal will be used exclusively for the ministries and services noted above.

Q. When will pledge redemption begin?

A. Parishioners who make pledges will receive their first reminder mailing one month after their pledge is received. Donors are asked to complete their pledges by December 31st.

Q. How will my parish receive credit for parishioner gifts?

A. On the direct mail reply card of the appeal letter, a household registered parish will be pre-printed. Please encourage your parishioners to double-check their registry on this card and to make corrections if needed. For gifts sent in pew envelopes or The Catholic Voice envelopes, a space is provided for a parish listing. It is important that your parishioners indicate which parish should receive credit and that they specify the correct city/location of the parish.

Q. Can a parishioner restrict a gift to one or more of the cases for support elements?

A. No. Appeal funds are spread across the various ministries based on the needs at the time. Gifts can be made to a specific ministry via a separate check or online gift noting how the gift should be designated.

Frequently Asked Questions, *continued*

Q. What types of gifts will be accepted?

A. Gifts are gratefully accepted via check, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express), or direct debit of a checking account. Parishioners can give online by visiting the Bishop's Ministries Appeal website at www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal. We also accept gifts of appreciated stock or securities, easily liquidated property, and bequests. Procedures for making a stock or securities gift can be found on the Diocesan website at www.oakdiocese.org/how-to-give or by contacting the Office for Mission Advancement at 510-267-8314.

Q. How will progress of the Appeal be communicated to the parishes?

A. The Office for Mission Advancement will provide fundraising updates to parishes on a bi-weekly basis throughout the year.

Q. Where can I find the materials for the Appeal?

A. Appeal materials (video, brochure, goals, manual, contact info etc.) can be found on the diocesan intranet.



TO ACCESS THE DIOCESAN INTRANET:

- » Go to the Diocese of Oakland home page at www.oakdiocese.org.
- » Scroll to the bottom of the page and select Diocese Intranet.
- » Enter Password: Shared!info
- » From the left side panel, select Chancery > Bishop's Appeal Resources.
- » Select the piece(s) you would like to view or download.