

Option A – Giving online:

- If you would like to complete your pledge online, you will find the website URL (www.DOL-IN.org/CMA) and a QR-code on the back of the pledge card.
- When giving online, you can:
 - ◻ Set up sustained monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual gifts which will continue from year to year until you choose otherwise.
 - ◻ Set up recurring monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual gifts which will **end December 31, 2026**.
 - ◻ OR make a one-time gift.

Option B – Utilizing the Pledge Card

- Explain how to fill in the card, starting with full name and contact information. Spouse's name when appropriate. (Presider: please fill out the contact section on your own card and when you are done move to the next step.)
- Now, let us look at the commitment part itself. As most of you know, like Fruitful Harvest, the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal is somewhat flexible in its format, allowing you to spread your financial commitment through December 2026. The first reminder statement would be mailed in March 2026, and the last payment in December of 2026. Regardless of how you want to submit your gift, the total amount of your pledge for all of 2026 should be written where it says "Total Pledge" and if you have a gift of cash or check that you want to give toward your total pledge, that amount should be written where it says "Amount Enclosed."
- Finally, seal the pledge card and any payment into the envelope provided.
- (Pastor: Explain when parishioners will turn in the envelope.)

Choose one option:

1. Please bring your sealed envelope forward to the altar and present it to the Lord by placing it in the basket in front of the altar.
2. Please be prepared to turn in your completed pledge in the sealed envelope along with the regular collection during Mass today.
3. Please place your sealed envelope into the basket(s) (name the locations) as you leave today.

Thank you for participating in the 2026 annual Catholic Ministries Appeal. Your participation benefits the staff and parishioners of our parish/pastorate, as well as many across the Local Church and the Universal Church across the world.

Where Do Diocesan Ministries Best Touch My Parishioners?

Please find on the CMA website (www.DOL-IN.org/CMA) a list of Diocesan Supported Ministries and the Ministries to Parishes. These are specific examples of how small gifts and large gifts are making a positive impact to our Local Church in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

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DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Best Practices for a Successful Appeal

- Set a time-based goal to reach 100% of your Pledge Goal, in order to help parishioners realize a sense of urgency.
- Establish a group of well-respected parishioner families to help plan events, communications and promote the CMA-26 locally.
- Maintain communication about CMA-26 on your website, in your bulletins and via social media.
- Remind parishioners why it is important to participate. Remind them that support is critical to responding to and meeting the needs of ministries and programs.
- Assign a pastorate staff member as the main CMA-26 contact, and have them present updates at Financial Council and Pastorate Council meetings.
- During the in-pew process, have a coordinator at the back of the church facilitating the passing out of pledge cards and the pledge card collection process.
- Be prepared! Plan and rehearse the in-pew process in advance.
- **Thank the parishioners** before and after you make the in-pew request.
- Remain positive and treat the entire process as a celebration.



Option 1: INCORPORATE PLEDGING INTO THE LITURGY BEGINNING WITH THE HOMILY

Possible concepts to include in your homily:

- ✓ **Through our baptism, each of us is incorporated into the living body of Christ.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – One Body, Many Parts; "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ."
 - Ephesians 4:25 – Rules for the New Life; "for we are members one of another."
- ✓ **Jesus is counting on His Body to live a life of gratitude to God and a life of love to our neighbor.**
 - All that we have, including the breath in our lungs, are gifts from God. We are appointed stewards of every minute we have on this earth: the talents, skills and abilities God has given to us, and all of the treasures and resources whether given or earned.
- ✓ **Thank your parishioners for the many contributions they have made of prayer, faith, their talents, time, and money to the parish as well as to the Local Church across our diocese.**
 - We can show our love to God through our prayer life, our service to those in need, and warm hospitality. Another way is by financially supporting the good works of the Local Church, which is made up of the parishes, schools and facilities of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, as well as our Chancery offices and staff in Lafayette.

Today, I would especially like to thank all of you who participated in the 2025 annual Catholic Ministries Appeal. We *(met/did not meet)* our goal of \$_____ *(insert your parish/pastorate goal here. If parishes within your pastorate supported each other by going over their parish goal, please acknowledge this to parishioners. If your total pastorate provided gifts over your pastorate goal, let them know how your rebate is being utilized.)*

It is now time for the 2026 annual Catholic Ministries Appeal. Just to clarify, this is the same appeal that had formerly been known as Fruitful Harvest. The reason for the name change is to focus on the many ministries that are supported through this appeal and to increase the transparency of how the funds raised from this appeal are utilized to support the works of Christ directly through the Chancery offices and staff in Lafayette, as well as through the ministries they provide to support our local parishes. Traditionally, Fruitful Harvest followed a two-year schedule, but the Catholic Ministries Appeal will be an annual appeal, running from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

As I mentioned, the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal funds the good works and ministries that are outside the scope of our local pastorate, like paying for seminarian formation as just one example. This year we are striving to reach 100% of our CMA Pledge Goal by the end of April *(or use whatever date is appropriate for your pastorate)*. Completing our CMA Pledge Goal in this timeframe will allow us all to focus even more of our time and efforts on those good works and ministries that are specifically within the scope of our local pastorate, such as *(list a few of the good works and ministries financially supported locally)*.

You should have all received a letter in the mail from Bishop Doherty asking for your support. Let us take a few minutes to view the appeal video and learn more about some of the ministries the appeal supports.

SHOW MAIN VIDEO featuring Bishop Doherty, or reference the video and the three additional ministry impact videos:

- **Saint Joseph Retreat & Conference Center:** Your generosity to the Catholic Ministries Appeal enables us to gather in the sacred place known as the Saint Joseph Retreat & Conference Center to encounter the Lord and then go back to our parishes and communities with hearts on fire to live out our call to serve as missionary disciples.
- **Pastorate Life Services:** Your generosity to the Catholic Ministries Appeal strengthens your parish by forming and equipping pastors and parish leaders to better serve you and build vibrant communities of faith.
- **The Clergy Lifecycle:** Your generosity to the Catholic Ministries Appeal nurtures those called to serve, from seminarians discerning God's will to priests in active ministry and through retirement, as they give their lives in service to Christ and His people.

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Option 2: PLEDGING AT THE END OF MASS

From the presider's chair or the ambo. Incorporate pledging into the final announcements:

I'd like to take time now to thank all of you who participated in the 2025 annual Catholic Ministries Appeal. We *(met/did not meet)* our goal of \$_____ *(insert your parish/pastorate goal here. If parishes within your pastorate supported each other by going over their parish goal, please acknowledge this to parishioners. If your total pastorate provided gifts over your pastorate goal, let them know how your rebate is being utilized.)*

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(Let the parishioners know that they can view all of the ministry impact videos on the CMA website, which can be found via the URL or QR code in the direct mail material.)

After the video you may want to make one or two positive comments about how the ministries shown in the video or identified in the brochure/Bishop's letter have impacted your parish, people in the community who are in need, the Local Church, etc.)

The letter from Bishop Doherty also included a pre-printed pledge card and return envelope, and I hope many of you have already made your pledge and returned your pledge card via mail or online.

I am asking those of you who have not yet made that commitment to do so today and help us reach our goal. You can send in your pledge using the pledge card you received in the mail, or using the ones in the pew. You can also pledge electronically on the diocesan website.

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