



The Diocese of Knoxville

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Bishop's Appeal reaches \$3 million in gifts Key funder for diocesan ministries hits historic benchmark

KNOXVILLE--- Bishop Richard F. Stika called Knoxville diocese members' historic contributions to the 2022 Bishop's Appeal for Ministries "a testimony to diocese members' faith."

"The fountain of compassion and generosity flowing from Knoxville diocese members' hearts is an inspiration, and the results are benefiting and uplifting individuals and families and furthering the Gospel," Bishop Stika said about the more than \$3 million raised in 2022, a new Bishop's Appeal for Ministries record. "It's a testimony to diocese members' faith."

"This is an example of faith with works that is making a difference in people's lives," the bishop said. "It's absolutely amazing for a diocese of our size."

The Bishop's Appeal for Ministries, a vital source of annual funding for diocesan works of mercy, formation, and outreach, set a record in 2022—surpassing the \$3 million mark for the first time in diocesan history.

"Support of the 2022 appeal is astonishing," said Deacon Hicks Armor, director of stewardship and strategic planning for the Diocese of Knoxville. "It is, quite frankly, humbling and fulfilling."

"We owe a great debt of gratitude and thanks to the parishes, the priests and deacons who communicated our message, and to the parishioners who supported the appeal."

With the 2023 Bishop's Appeal for Ministries now underway, the official total for the 2022 appeal won't be settled until sometime in late March, after all receipts are reviewed. The stewardship office, which oversees the annual campaign, says 2022's "gifts received" have surpassed \$3 million, with some commitments still outstanding.

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“The Appeal has grown almost every year since I’ve been here, but it’s not about me or because of me. It’s the hard work of our stewardship office. Each year the office develops a message that clearly defines who we are as a Catholic Church, and it’s been uplifting to see parishioners across the diocese respond the way they have, each year, to support our work,” Bishop Stika said.

In 2010, one year into Bishop Stika’s episcopacy in Knoxville, the appeal raised \$920,000. It surpassed \$1.2 million in 2013. By 2019, the appeal reached \$2.7 million. The 2021 annual Bishop’s Appeal for Ministries raised \$2.9 million.

“The growth of the appeal has enabled us to expand the work of our ministries,” Bishop Stika said. “Ministries like Catholic Charities of East Tennessee. It helps keep our St. Mary’s mobile medical clinic on the road. It helps fund seminarian education and continuing formation for our priests. And it allows us to shape the lives of children and young adults in our faith. And much more.

“My deepest thanks to members who support the Bishop’s Appeal,” the bishop said. “Your contributions are making an eternal difference.”

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