

More information inside...

Annual Household Income	1% Pledge	Down Payment Monthly
\$12,000	\$120	\$10.00
\$24,000	\$240	\$20.00
\$48,000	\$480	\$40.00
\$60,000	\$600	\$50.00
\$90,000	\$900	\$75.00
\$120,000	\$1,200	\$100.00
\$180,000	\$1,800	\$150.00

Please consider 1% of your income as a gift to the 2024 God's Share Appeal. Make your pledge today. Thank you for being good stewards of God's varied graces.

1. Make a pledge rather than a one-time gift.
2. Have your gift automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
3. Use your credit card or debit card to make your gift.
4. Make your gift on-line at www.bismarckdiocese.com
5. Make your gift by "Text-to-Give": text the \$ amount to (833) 544-1375
6. Make your gift on your parish's APR.
7. Increase last year's gift by a percentage or a specific dollar amount.
8. Pledge one percent of your income.
9. Make your gift using stocks, bonds, grain, livestock, securities, real estate, or other personal property, which may have greatly increased in value. Should you be considering this type of gift, contact the Office of Mission Advancement at (701) 222-3035 for assistance.

Consider Different Possibilities

We Respond as Disciples...

After reflecting on the importance of the vital works of formation, outreach and education funded through the God's Share Appeal and how you can help,

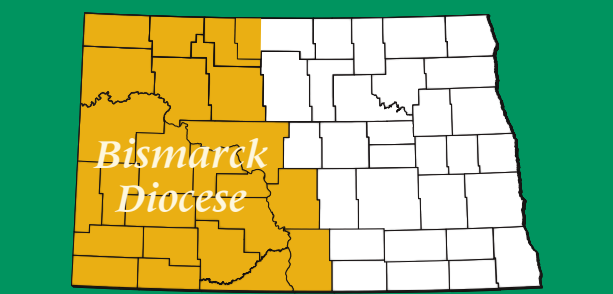
Please **reflect** on the many gifts you have received from God, including your family and financial blessings.

Next, **pray** about how God wants you to use the gifts He has entrusted to your care.

Then, **decide** how you will share your blessings with those in need and to support the mission of your Diocesan Church.

Please prayerfully discern how you respond to God's generosity in your life by making a generous pledge to the God's Share Appeal that impacts thousands of lives in western North Dakota each year.

"Hearts Filled With Gratitude"



Bismarck Diocese
520 North Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-3035 or Toll Free 1-877-405-7435
bismarckdiocese.com

The Office of Vocations, on average, has the largest office budget. Through your donations to the annual God's Share Appeal, Bishop Kagan is able to pay for the education and formation expenses of our 10 seminarians. The average cost for one seminarian in the major seminary is \$37,500 each year. Please continue to pray for our 10 seminarians and for everyone else that is considering a call to the Religious Life.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS 2023-2024

DCN. RYAN MARTIRE
CONFIGURATION 4
CATHEDRAL
BISMARCK

DCN. ERIC ARTZ
LITTLE FLOWER
MINOT

JOSEPH RICHTER
CONFIGURATION 2
ST. JOSEPH
DICKINSON

JOSEPH SCHEN
DISCIPLINE 4
ASCENSION
BISMARCK

JUSTIN GROENBERGHS
PROPADEUTIC YEAR
CORPUS CHRISTI
BISMARCK

AARON RIPPINGER
PROPADEUTIC YEAR
ST. JOSEPH
BEULAH

BEN WEIGUM
DISCIPLINE 3
ST. ANNE
BISMARCK

DOMINIC SCHAEFFER
DISCIPLINE 2
ST. JOSEPH
MANDAN

BISMARCK DIOCESE
BISMARCKVOCATIONS.COM

"Hearts Filled With Gratitude."



God's Share Appeal

"Hearts Filled With Gratitude"

May 4-5, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you for your strong and steadfast support of my ministry which, with your prayers and generosity, saw last year's God's Share Appeal reach our goal. It is with gratitude that I am blessed by our Lord to serve such a faithful and vibrant community in western North Dakota.

The Annual God's Share Appeal is a shared effort of our 93 parishes and 61,000 Catholics to support our vibrant Catholic community with the spiritual, pastoral, educational, and temporal works critical in forming families, children, and all individuals yearning for the love and mercy of God.

Our 67th Annual Appeal is upon us. This year's goal is \$3,298,500. With your donation, we will be able to form our 10 seminarians and 12 diaconate candidates; train our religious education catechists and adult faith formation leaders; help our young people grow in faith and prepare for the reception of the Sacraments; promote the dignity of life and marriage; and so much more.

Please read this brochure to learn how your gift makes such a large impact on thousands of individuals and families in our diocese. Our website, www.bismarckdiocese.com has additional information on our offices and programs, as well as materials that will inform, educate, and inspire you.

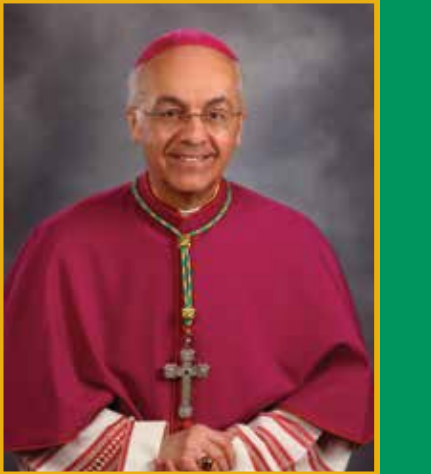
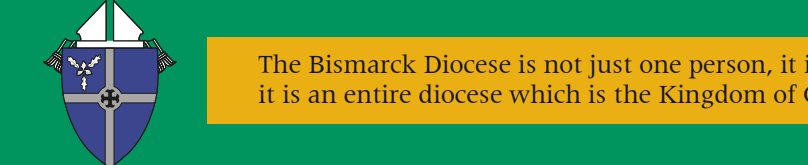
I have chosen "Hearts filled with Gratitude" as our theme for the 2024 God's Share Appeal. Psalm 136:1 tells us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." Through the Annual God's Share Appeal, we can express our gratitude and support the many good works of our Catholic Church.

I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can respond to the Lord's call to "do this in memory of me" by supporting the God's Share Appeal. A donation to the appeal funds the work that enables service to the Lord beyond what an individual parish can provide, supporting all the faithful in western North Dakota.

Thank you for your generosity and faithful commitment to the Church's mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L.
Bishop of Bismarck
On behalf of the Bismarck Diocese



The God's Share Appeal is based on the concept of Christian Stewardship. Stewardship is centered on the daily recognition that we are not the absolute owners of ourselves, our time, our talents, or material goods. Rather, we have received every gift of nature and grace from God. Through Baptism we are called to use our time, talent and treasure in a responsible manner for our families, our parish communities, the pastoral, educational and religious ministries of the universal Church. Stewardship is not about just giving in order to fill a need. It is about living a life that shows gratitude to the Lord for our lives, our skills and our resources.

Stewardship and the God's Share Appeal

"Hearts Filled With Gratitude"

Our faith teaches us that the way we came to know of Jesus' love for us, was that He laid down his life – as an example for us to follow. By making a gift to this year's God's Share Appeal, you are expressing your love as a Christian steward – supporting Christ's work here in western North Dakota.

The Bismarck Diocese is not just one person, it is not just one parish, it is an entire diocese which is the Kingdom of God in western North Dakota.

Your donation to the 2024 God's Share Appeal supports all of the programs and services provided by the following offices:

- Archives
- Bishop's Office
- Canonical Services
- Catechesis and Youth
- Chancery Office
- Communications and Media Services
- Continuing Education for Clergy
- Dakota Catholic Action
- Education
- Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
- Family Ministry/Respect Life
- Finance
- Internal Auditor
- Mission Advancement
- Missionary Activity
- Moderator of the Curia/Vicar General
- Permanent Diaconate
- Vocations
- Worship

“Hearts Filled
With Gratitude”

God's Share Appeal

May 4 -5, 2024

WE ARE...

- 61,000 Catholic people
- 93 Parishes
- 1 Bishop
- 65 Priests
- 11 Retired Priests
- 10 Seminarians
- 85 Permanent Deacons
- 12 Men in Diaconate Formation
- 1 Diocese

LIVING AND SHARING OUR
FAITH IN 2023, WE CELEBRATED:

- 963 Baptisms
- 888 First Communions
- 703 Confirmations
- 188 Marriages
- 616 Deaths

The Bismarck Diocese is not just one person, it is not just one parish, it is an entire diocese which is the Kingdom of God in western North Dakota.

Bishop Kagan poses with our three new priests after their Ordination.



Our two seminarians that will be Ordained to the Priesthood.



Our seminarians attending their summer gathering.



Bishop Kagan confirms over 700 people each year.



Bishop Kagan gathers with the OCIA candidates.



Office of Vocations

Your donation supports the **Office of Vocations**. Last year, three priests were Ordained to the Priesthood: Fr. Josh Hill, Fr. Dustin Johns, and Fr. Steven Vetter. On June 11, 2024, two more of our seminarians, Deacon Eric Artz and Deacon Ryan Martire will be Ordained to the Priesthood. For a small diocese of our size, we are extremely blessed with the number of seminarians we have.

Office of Catechesis and Youth

Your gift supports the **Office of Catechesis and Youth** which provides valuable training and information to all of the parishes' Religious Education programs. This office also coordinates the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training for the parishes and Catholic schools using this special Religious Education program; the High School and Middle School Youth Rallies; Search weekend; Steubenville Youth Conferences; Young Adult Ministry; Duc in Altum; and the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) wanting to enter the Catholic Church.

Bishop Kagan blesses the land, animals and machinery at the Annual Town & Country Celebration.



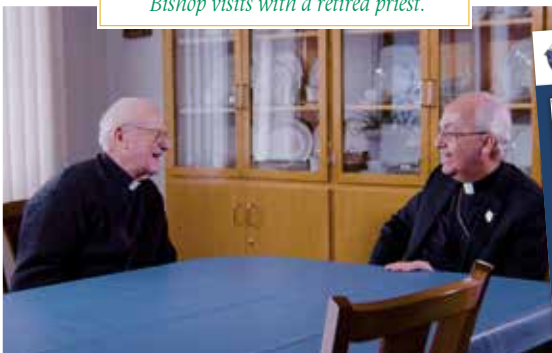
Youth from western North Dakota attend the #NDMarchforLife event at the State Capitol grounds.



Bishop Kagan with our new Deacon, John Burke from St. Charles Parish in Bowman



Bishop visits with a retired priest.



Office of Family Ministry/Respect Life

Your contribution supports the **Office of Family Ministry/Respect Life** which provides informational resources for marriage preparation, marriage encounter, sponsor couple training, respect life, natural family planning, marriage enrichment and several other opportunities. There are numerous programs and services offered by this office that include the Town and Country Celebration; Courage; Hannah's Hope Ministry; Rachel's Vineyard; Struggling Marriages – Corazon; Second Marriage Seminars; N.D. March for Life; and others.

Office of Permanent Diaconate

Your gift supports the **Office of Permanent Diaconate** which assists men who are studying to become deacons in the five-year formation program. This office also coordinates the on-going formation weekends for our Ordained Deacons throughout the year. Currently, we have 12 men in formation and 85 deacons.

Retired Priests and Bishop

Your contribution supports all of our 11 retired priests who are a tremendous gift to our diocese. Through the ministry of the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, we desire to reaffirm them and offer encouragement to them as they experience their sunset years. Bishop Kagan visits with Fr. Leonard Eckroth, one of our retired priests.

Office of Communications

The **Office of Communications** assists Bishop Kagan in communicating with people of all ages in a variety of ways – through the Dakota Catholic Action news magazine, weekly video messages on the diocesan website and through social media including Bishop's Twitter account.



Zoom meeting.



Diocesan Educational and Training Workshops

Educational workshops are offered by several diocesan offices to a variety of parish groups throughout the year. Our priests, deacons, parish employees, parish and finance council members are among the many who benefit from the education provided.

Continuing Education for Clergy

The **Office of Continuing Education for Clergy** provides for the continued spiritual, intellectual and pastoral growth of our clergy by planning the Annual Fall and Spring Clergy Conferences, Annual Retreats for Priests, and the New Priest Workshops.



Bishop Kagan holding the chalice.



Bishop blessing the statue of St. Patrick in Crosby



The Chancery Office

The **Chancery Office** provides administrative and clerical assistance for Bishop Kagan and maintains official diocesan records and reports in the Archives.

For more interesting pictures and information on each office, please visit our diocesan website:

bismarckdiocese.com

Doing God's Work