

More information inside...

Please consider 1% of your income as a gift to the 2026 God's Share Appeal. Make your pledge today. Thank you for being good stewards of God's varied grace.

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

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](http://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,

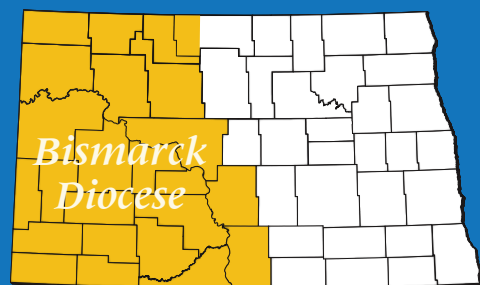
Please **reflect** on the many gifts you have received from God, including your family and financial blessings.

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.


## "Living Faith, Changing Lives."




Bismarck Diocese  
520 North Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501

(701) 222-3035 or Toll Free 1-877-405-7435  
[bismarckdiocese.com](http://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 15 seminarians. The average cost for one seminarian in the major seminary is \$45,000 each year. Please continue to pray for our 15 seminarians and for everyone else that is considering a call to the Religious Life.




BISMARCKVOCATIONS.COM




NOLAN JOHNSON  
PRO-PREBENDIC  
ST. JOSEPH  
MANDAN




PRESTON BARRIE  
PRO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY  
BISMARCK




AIDEN SHAERLAUER  
PRO-PREBENDIC  
ST. JOSEPH  
BISMARCK




ROMAN KLUMWIRTH  
PRO-PREBENDIC  
ST. JOSEPH  
BEULAH




TYLER SCHERZER  
PRO-PREBENDIC  
ST. PETER  
NEW SALEM




JOSEPH SCHERZER  
CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
BISMARCK




PAUL VETTER  
PRO-PREBENDIC  
ST. HILDEGARD  
MANDAN




TAYVEN THOMAS  
PRO-PREBENDIC  
SPIRIT OF LIFE  
MANDAN




THOMAS KRALJIC  
DISCIPLESHIP II  
CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
BISMARCK




ALEX WILSON  
DISCIPLESHIP III  
CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
BISMARCK




GRIEFF SCHAEFFER  
OUR LADY OF GRACE  
MINOT




AARON RIPPLINGER  
DISCIPLESHIP IV  
BISMARCK



JOSEPH SCHON  
CONGREGATION II  
BISMARCK



JOSEPH RICHTER  
CONGREGATION III  
ST. ANNE  
BISMARCK



DCN. COTTON STEINER  
CONGREGATION IV  
ST. JOSEPH  
DICKINSON

PRAY FOR OUR  
2025-2026  
SEMINARIANS

## Stewardship and the God's Share Appeal

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 diocese, and for the global ministers of the universal Church. Stewardship is not about living a life that shows gratitude to the Lord for our lives, our skills and our resources.

## Stewardship is...

- Receiving God's Gifts Gratefully
- Nurturing God's Gifts Responsibly
- Sharing God's Gifts Justly
- Returning God's Gifts Abundantly

This year's God's Share Appeal theme is,

## "Living Faith, Changing Lives."

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.

## My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your faithful support of our diocese and the Church's many good works supported by our annual God's Share Appeal. Your response to last year's appeal resulted in us reaching our goal and is a testament to your excellent stewardship and love of our Catholic faith. I am most grateful for the opportunity to serve such a faithful and vibrant community in western North Dakota.

Our 69th Annual Appeal is upon us. With your donation, we will continue to be able to support the many necessary services provided by our diocese. These include forming our 15 seminarians and 15 diaconate candidates; training our religious education catechists and adult faith formation leaders; helping our young people grow in faith and prepare for the reception of the Sacraments; promoting the dignity of life and marriage; and so much more.

The Annual God's Share Appeal is a collective effort of our 93 parishes and 61,699 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.

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](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com) has additional information on our offices and programs, as well as materials that will inform, educate, and inspire you.

This year's theme for the 2026 God's Share Appeal is "Living Faith, Changing Lives". Through the Annual God's Share Appeal, we can live our faith with acts of generosity and positively impact the lives of our parishioners in western North Dakota. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can respond to the Lord's call to serve one another.

Your financial support to the annual God's Share Appeal ensures that the services provided by the Catholic Church will continue to prosper.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*David D. Kagan*

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

## "Living Faith, Changing Lives."

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.

## Bismarck Diocese



# God's Share Appeal

## "Living Faith, Changing Lives."

May 2-3, 2026



Your donation to the 2026 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

**"Living Faith,  
Changing Lives."**

# God's Share Appeal

May 2-3, 2026

**WE ARE...**

- 61,699 Catholic people
- 93 Parishes
- 1 Bishop
- 66 Priests
- 13 Retired Priests
- 15 Seminarians
- 86 Permanent Deacons
- 15 Men in Diaconate Formation
- 1 Diocese

**LIVING AND SHARING OUR FAITH IN 2025, WE CELEBRATED:**

- 979 Baptisms
- 968 First Communions
- 759 Confirmations
- 252 Marriages
- 763 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.

Fr. Steven Vetter, Director of Vocations with Dcn. Colton Steiner



Bishop Kagan poses with Dcn. Colton Steiner during his diaconate ordination.



Priests of the Bismarck Diocese at Mass



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. This year, Dcn. Colton Steiner will be ordained to the Priesthood. The Bismarck Diocese currently has 15 seminarians pursuing 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; Search weekend; Steubenville Youth Conferences; Young Adult Ministry; 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.



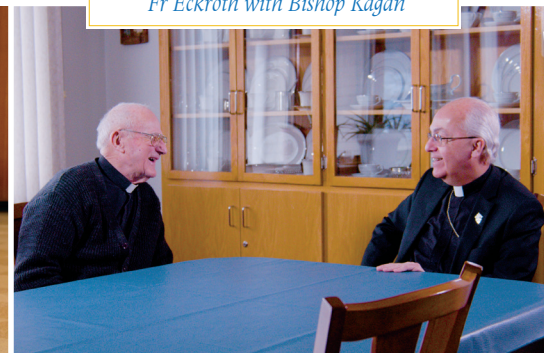
Youth from western North Dakota attend the March for Life event in Washington, DC.



Bishop Kagan with newly ordained Deacon Bob Nickola and his wife, Joan from Queen of Peace, Dickinson.



Fr Eckroth with Bishop Kagan



**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 15 men in formation and 86 deacons.

**Retired Priests and Bishop**

Your contribution supports all of our 13 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.



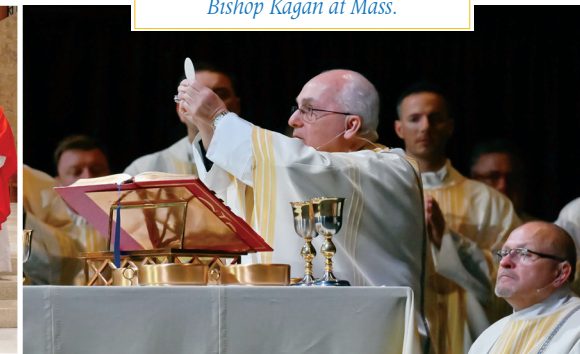
New Priest Workshop



Bishop Kagan at Mass.



Bishop Kagan at Liturgy.



**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.

**The Chancery Office**

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

# God's Share Appeal

May 2-3, 2026

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

[bismarckdiocese.com](http://bismarckdiocese.com)

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

# Doing God's Work