

# Linking Parish Ministries to the ACA

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One effective way of presenting the diocesan church and the Annual Catholic Appeal is to help parishioners understand the connections that exist between your parish ministries and diocesan ministries. These can be presented in many different ways.

- Ask a parishioner who has benefitted from a diocesan ministry to present their experience to the rest of the parish during announcement weekend – the more a parish can do to put a human face to the ACA the better the chance of increased participation
- Use your bulletin to present ongoing messages about specific connections to a particular ministry in your parish that the ACA supports
- Never neglect to mention a particular ministry or service that has been supported by the ACA in your parish
- Consider some of the following questions and if/how they pertain to your parish – they may reveal a connection you haven't thought of before:
  - Has your parish ever received a grant/rebate from the ACA? What was this money used for?
  - Does your parish have a school? The ACA supports many different aspects of schools.
  - Do you have engaged couples in your parish? The ACA helps fund and support programs and resources for marriage preparation courses.
  - Are there any couples in your parish that have participated in any marriage enrichment courses through our diocese? These courses are supported, in part, by the ACA.
  - Has your pastor (or deacon, if applicable) participated in any continuing education or trainings? Many of these are provided by the diocese, funded by the ACA.
  - Is your parish participating in a capital campaign? The ACA helps fund services to make diocesan staff members accessible to parishes needing advice in these areas.
  - Does your parish utilize any of the IT services that the diocese funds from the ACA?
  - Do any of the youth in your parish participate in Frassati Fest, Love Begins Here, or attend Camp Gray? The ACA helps fund all of these programs.
  - Does anyone in your parish utilize any of the 30+ programs offered through Catholic Charities for mental health, marriage and family counseling, drug and alcohol abuse counseling or the rural mobile food pantry? The ACA designates \$440,000 to help support all of the services listed above.

This list is by no means comprehensive; instead, it is intended to present the diocese in a different way to people. A clear understanding of what the ACA supports and how it relates to your parish is sometimes hard to explain, but hopefully this helps with that explanation.