

FAQ / Tips for Success

What is the Bishop's Annual Appeal?

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is the annual fundraising campaign conducted each year in parishes and missions throughout the Diocese of Baker to fund its pastoral ministries.

While much of the Church's ministry takes place in our parishes, we also come together as a diocesan Church to carry out critical services and ministries that have impact beyond any one parish.

Your support for the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps bring the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to life in your parish as a part of our overall effort to spread and deepen faith in the Merciful Lord throughout the Diocese.

How are parish goals determined?

Individual parish goals are determined by a calculation that compares a parish's annual offertory to the total annual offertory of all parishes in the Diocese.

Here is the calculation:

Annual parish offertory ÷ Total offertory for all parishes x BAA Goal for 2018 = Parish goal

For example, assume your annual parish offertory totals \$100,000. The total offertory for all parishes in the Diocese totals \$5,000,000. The BAA goal for 2018 is \$625,000. Your parish goal would be calculated like this:

$(\$100,000 \div \$5,000,000) \times \$625,000 = \$12,500$

How can we reach our goal?

Parishes that conduct a thorough Appeal (using the resource materials provided by the Appeal Office and following the two weekend in-pew processes as recommended – will find in most cases they will reach their goal in a few weeks.

Why is the in-pew process so important?

For the past 5 years pledges were secured by mailing directly to parishioners in the diocesan database. Many active parishioners never responded to the mail.

Perhaps they did not open it or they intended to respond but never got around to it. The point is they did not respond. This year we have added the Spanish translation to the brochure and are hopeful that the change will result in a positive outcome. But mostly, the active role and enthusiasm of the Pastor and the Office Staff will have an even bigger impact on the success of the 2018 Appeal.

No one really knows how many people regularly attended Mass, but are not registered. These people do not receive the mailings, and they might miss announcements or processes in church. Therefore, the in-pew process is a critical step toward reaching this significant segment of the parish donor-base, and meeting your financial goals.

Are the BAA materials available in Spanish?

Yes, the following materials will be available in Spanish for distribution at your parish:

- Bulletin Inserts
- Bulletin and Altar Notices
- In-Pew Pledge Envelopes
- Donor Intention Cards
- Appeal Brochure

How are Bishop's Annual Appeal funds allocated?

- Ongoing Formation of Clergy
- Priest Health and Retirement Fund
- Diocesan Priest Care Fund
- Seminarians
- Adult & Family Faith Formation
- Children's Religious Education
- Christian Initiation (RCIA)
- Sacramental Preparation
- Youth Ministry
- Hispanic Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Ministry Leadership Development
- Respect & Family Life
- Catholic Schools Education
- Communication & Evangelization

What's the difference between the Bishop's Annual Appeal and the Parish Assessment?

Simply stated, the Assessment is a fixed *parish* expense which goes to support the fixed expenses of the *Diocese*. Throughout the world, parish support for the essential costs of the Bishop's ministry is one of the fixed costs of running a parish. Just as the parish budget makes provision for paying parish phone bills, heat bills, and light bills, so its monthly line item for the Parish Assessment helps pay the phone bills, heat bills, and light bills in the Bishop's Office. (The size of each parish's assessment is derived from its annual income.)

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is different. In the Appeal I ask you—parishioners in every parish—to contribute *directly* to diocesan *ministries* that individual parishes cannot sustain on their own. But your *direct* contribution to the Bishop's Appeal comes back to you as an *indirect* contribution to your parish as well. For with your support the diocesan ministry of the Bishop enters into parish life and enhances it with a multitude of Appeal-funded programs: diocesan-wide youth retreats; diocesan training workshops for parish catechists, youth leaders, and administrators; diocesan-subsidized on-line resources like *Formed.org* available free of charge to every parish household. And there are many other similar efforts that redound to the good of the parish.

Here in the Diocese of Baker we Catholics are few and far between. Spread out over the fifth largest diocese in the lower 48 states, we make up the third or fourth smallest Catholic population in the country. As I can happily testify, the faith is very much alive in our rural parishes; but in many of them the economy is not. Our circumstances have changed from 100 years ago, but we are still considered a missionary diocese: we depend on the charity of Catholics throughout the country to help us keep growing in faith.

I remember the *Extension* calendar in our house in Prineville sixty years ago. Now as then the Diocese of Baker relies heavily on *Catholic Extension* and *Catholic Home Missions* (a subcommittee of the Conference of Bishops) to fund parish programs we cannot afford on our own. Last year grants from these sources to our diocese totaled roughly 22% of our basic operating income. That's not too far behind the contribution of the Bishop's Annual Appeal at 30%. (Parish Assessments constitute 48%.) It's noteworthy that the Diocese receives almost as much from *Extension* and *Home Missions* as from the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

That's why the goal for the Appeal keeps rising each year. Throughout the country many other dioceses depend on *Catholic Extension* as we do, and a number of them are much poorer than the Diocese of Baker. This means that whatever *Extension* grants us to fund projects here will *not* go to meet even more pressing needs elsewhere.

So while we should be all the more grateful for the generous donations which *Extension* and *Home Missions* continue to channel our way, it would be good to reduce our dependence on them. The more we become able to meet the needs of the Diocese ourselves from within the Diocese, the more we free up resources from outside Baker Diocese for grants to our fellow Catholics elsewhere who need them even more than we do.

Bishop Liam Cary