What is the Catholic Services Appeal?
The Catholic Services Appeal, or CSA, is the annual drive conducted by each parish within the Diocese of Gary to raise the money needed to meet its assigned goal. Each parish within the Diocese of Gary is responsible for paying a share of the costs of providing diocesan programs and services within our parishes and institutions.

How does the Catholic Services Appeal benefit me and my parish?
You and thousands of others in the Diocese of Gary are directly or indirectly served through a number of diocesan ministries, offices and services. Among those ministries and offices that receive funding through the CSA are the tuition assistance program for our Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education programs. Additionally, our seminarians and those being trained for the permanent diaconate and lay leadership all benefit from CSA funding. Additionally, eight other collections that are taken up as second collections in other dioceses are simply rolled into the CSA in our Diocese.

How much should I pledge?
That is entirely up to you since you know your own situation best. We are simply asking everyone to take an affordable, reasonable step toward giving 1% of their annual income to the CSA. Examine your heart. When you are at peace about the size of your gift…when you do not find yourself making excuses for its size…when you know in your heart that you have been honest with God and yourself…then your gift is the proper size. All are invited to join in prayer even if they are not able to pledge a financial gift.

If I don’t give, it won’t hurt our parish, will it?
Our parishioners are asked to help us reach our parish goal for 2019. If our goal is not met, we must make up the difference using money from either our regular weekend collection or our savings. The good news is that every dollar collected above the goal is returned to the parish. As an added bonus for this year, every parish that makes its goal will receive 10% of their goal in added rebate to help with parish synod implementation.

I’m afraid to make a pledge because… (“My health is poor”; “I have too many bills”; “I might lose my job”, etc.)
A pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal is not a legal document. It is simply a statement of the donor’s intention to provide support for our diocesan ministries and outreach. If your situation changes, we will certainly understand. Just call the parish office and let us know. You are also encouraged to place your prayer requests on the CSA prayer cards so that the Bishop can join you in prayer.

What about all those who give nothing at all?
It can be upsetting to those of us who make a pledge to the CSA to realize the number of people in our parish that choose not to make a gift. However, it is important to remember that our support to the CSA is not about what others give. It is our way of giving thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. It is best not to base our CSA donation on what others give, but instead view our giving as a personal faith decision based on our income and our ability to give.