The needs in both the Diocese of Gary and in the Church universal require a response from every Catholic. These needs cannot be effectively fulfilled by one individual or even by a single parish. Since 1987, the Catholic Services Appeal has been extremely successful in addressing those needs because of the generous stewardship of the people of Northwest Indiana. The dedication and enthusiastic support of the pastors, associate pastors and staff of many parishes have been key factors in the continued success of the CSA.

Among the offices and services that benefit from CSA gifts are:

- **The Office for Vocations.** Men who have answered the call to the priesthood or permanent diaconate receive academic and spiritual formation to effectively serve the people of the Diocese.

- **The Office for Lay Ecclesial Ministry.** Women and men who are called to the vocation of serving the Church in leadership roles in our parishes, our Diocese and other institutions receive academic, pastoral and spiritual formation.

- **The Office for Catholic Schools.** This past year the Diocese of Gary provided $800,000 for the tuition assistance program. This program gives financial aid to families who could not otherwise afford an education for their children to attend one of our Catholic elementary or high schools.

- **The Office for Youth and Young Adults.** Annual retreats, conferences and special programs give our youth opportunities to grow in their faith when they gather with their peers from throughout the Diocese. Additionally, the CYO and Camp Lawrence give our children the opportunity to come together for rest and relaxation in a Christ-centered environment.

- **The Office for Religious Education.** Catechists and Directors of Religious Education/Faith Formation are given opportunities to grow in their own faith as they learn new ways of teaching our children who do not attend Catholic schools.

- **Catholic Charities.** Catholic Charities, one of the largest recipients of CSA funds, helps people in dire need receive financial, emotional and spiritual help through offices located across the Diocese.

- **National and International collections.** A gift to the CSA is also a gift to the eight collections that are taken up separately in other dioceses: the Holy Father’s charities, Catholic Communications, Black and Indian Missions, Home Missions, Religious Retirement, the Catholic University of America, Holy Land support, and the Pastoral Solidarity for the Church in Africa.

Over the past 31 years, the CSA has raised more than $76 million. Last year over 750 families contributed at the Bishop’s Guild level of $1,000 or more. Every dollar received over and above the parish goal is rebated to the parish. Parishes received more than $970,000 in rebates from the 2018 campaign to finance their particular needs, such as new roofs, repaving parking lots, purchasing computers and other equipment, or making their buildings more inviting and accessible.

With continued enthusiastic support, the Catholic Services Appeal will benefit all parishes and people in the Diocese of Gary and beyond!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS STEWARDSHIP!**