

CATHOLIC FAITH *Appeal* 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Catholic Faith Appeal and what are its proceeds used for?

Each year, the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) extends a heartfelt invitation for our Diocese to unite and extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in need. It is one of the most effective ways to carry out the work of the Church, and it is a testament to our Catholic Faith in action. Contributions to the CFA play a crucial role in supporting a diverse array of programs and services, including Vocations and Seminarians, Religious Education, aid for financially challenged Parishes and Missions, Evangelization, Catholic Education, Catholic Charities, and more. On an annual basis, Parishes in the Diocese of Venice make a required contribution to financially support these efforts. The Catholic Faith Appeal empowers every parishioner to actively contribute to their Parish's financial commitment, with goals tailored to each Parish's income rather than the number of registered families. This approach accommodates the seasonal influx of northern visitors during the winter months, significantly enhancing the Appeal's success.

How does the CFA benefit my Parish and me?

First, by participating in the Appeal, Parishes and their Parishioners come together to renew their commitment to evangelize, form, and care for men, women, and children beyond the confines of their Parish community. Secondly, a portion of the money that is pledged over goal will be returned to your Parish for its own programs and services.

Many of the departments funded by the Appeal assist Parishes or provide services to the Parish community. Programs such as marriage enrichment, divorce support group, and Faith-based conferences are enjoyed by all. In addition, several departments in the Diocese work closely with Parishes in such areas as religious education, youth and young adult programs and the curriculum for our Catholic schools. See the brochure for more information.

Why does Catholic Charities do additional fundraising?

Approximately 13% of the Diocesan budget is given to Catholic Charities to help support its very worthwhile presence in our Diocese. However, this amount is only a percentage of the funding needed to carry out its Mission of serving those in need. In addition to what the Diocese is able to provide, further fundraising is required.

Why are the administrative services included?

The Diocese of Venice, in order to fulfill its Mission of proclaiming the Gospel, sharing the Faith, and serving others, requires facilities, employees, and volunteers throughout our ten counties.

The staff, working in the departments located at the Catholic Center, serve the Catholic Faithful in Southwest Florida by providing administrative services and guidance. These professionals help ensure that all resources are utilized efficiently, effectively and responsibly.

Why are there so many mailings?

More than 3.5 million dollars of the appeal comes to us through the mailings. Once you have responded to a CFA mailing or made a gift through your Parish, solicitations will stop being sent to you. You will, however, continue to receive mailings such as an acknowledgement letter for your gift and a tax receipt in January. Tax receipts are sent to anyone who gives a gift of \$10 and more. It is always wise to keep receipts of your charitable giving for audit purposes.

How much should I give?

The practice of Catholic stewardship puts our Faith into action. God has blessed each of us in a variety of ways. We recognize that everyone has unique life circumstances. Only you can decide what gift is right for you, your family, and your budget. It is a decision made between you and God.

Should I make a pledge or a one-time gift?

Making a pledge allows you to spread your gift throughout the year, which may make it easier for you to pay, and may also allow you to give a larger gift. Pledge statements are sent out monthly unless otherwise requested. These are simply reminders and not bills. You can pay your pledge any time before the end of the year. If your situation changes, you may also adjust your pledge.

How can I make my gift?

We try to make your giving as easy as possible! You can make a gift through checks, credit cards, direct debit, online giving at www.dioceseofvenice.org, bequests, charitable gift annuities, matching gift programs, and approved gifts of real estate. Please give us a call at 941-486-4719 and we'll happily answer your questions.

Will any funds from the CFA be used to settle lawsuits or for legal expenses?

No, the Catholic Faith Appeal funds are restricted for the funding of the ministries and programs outlined in promotional materials and are not used to settle claims or pay claim related expenses.

If I contribute to my Parish's capital campaign, does the Diocese get a portion of my gift?

Funds from approved Parish capital campaigns are not assessable. Therefore, the fully donated amount is available for use by the Parish for capital campaign purposes.