

Frequently Asked Questions

Parish Planning Meeting #1

1. How are the operating costs of the Pastoral Center funded?

The Pastoral Center operating budget is funded through three major sources:

1. Diocesan ministries and services are funded through voluntary donations to the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**.
2. Administrative functions that serve our parishes, schools and ministries such as Human Resources, Accounting and IT will be supported through earnings from a trust.
3. The Bishop and leadership efforts of the Diocese are funded through a 2% Cathedraticum tax that is calculated and submitted by the parish each month based on their financial statements.

2. Why the three funding sources?

In 2021, after much consultation and review, a task force of pastors voted unanimously to implement this new financial structure for our parishes, donors and the Diocese. It lessens the financial burden on parishes, allows 100% of donor contributions to go toward ministries instead of administration or leadership costs.

3. How does my parish participate in the Catholic Ministry Appeal?

Parishes are expected to participate in the **Catholic Ministry Appeal** by following the timeline, promoting the appeal to parishioners and conducting a robust in-pew appeal at the appropriate time. *If a parish does those things, there will be no assessment for ministry if the parish does not achieve its goal.*

4. What role am I being asked to take on for the Parish Leadership Team?

All parishioners will be invited in various ways to participate and contribute to the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. You have been asked by your pastor to assist in rolling out what is known as a “Best Effort”, or various ways of inviting all parish families to take part in the appeal.

5. What types of ministries are funded through the new Catholic Ministry Appeal?

The appeal funds shared Catholic ministries and services that no single parish could accomplish on its own. For a full listing, please visit www.dosp.org/catholicministryappeal/.

6. What is the overall goal for the 2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal and when will it start?

The goal for 2026 is \$10.5 million, of which each parish will have a portion. The active phase of the appeal will start in January. The Development Office will provide tools (including this Frequently Asked Question handout!) and pre-drafted communications to assist pastors, staff, lay leaders and donors in implementing the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. All tools and materials are available at www.dosp.org/catholicministryappeal/2026parishresources.

7. What is our parish goal for the Catholic Ministry Appeal?

Individual parish goals are based on the approved formula for looking at parish assessable revenue:

Offertory
Plus Donations
Less School Support up to \$100,000
= Assessable Revenue
Times 14.0%
= Catholic Ministry Appeal Parish Goal

8. What happens if my parish doesn't reach its goal for the appeal? What happens if we go over goal?

Every pastor is expected to put forth his “best effort” toward the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. This includes following the timeline provided by the diocesan Stewardship and Development Office, promoting the appeal to parishioners and conducting a well-organized and robust in-pew appeal at the appropriate times. If a parish does those things but

does not achieve its goal for the appeal, it will not be responsible for paying for the shortfall. *Bishop Parkes has the utmost confidence that our priests and parish staff will put forth their best efforts to promote the new appeal to parishioners and invite them to help support our shared Catholic ministries and services.*

Because there is no penalty for parishes if a “best effort” is put forth, the risk in not achieving goal and then reducing/cutting ministry options resides with Bishop Parkes. As of right now, if a parish goes over goal, the overage does not go back to the parish. It has been communicated that “if the appeal exceeds its overall goal, diocesan ministries can grow and expand.” The appeal is not intended to be transactional, meaning a donor gives to larger ministry only because some funds are returned to their parish. It is intended to be voluntary. Either they wish to support larger ministries, or they do not.

9. What happens if the overall appeal doesn’t reach its goal?

All diocesan ministries and services will live within the budget of what is contributed each year to the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. The more successful the appeal, the more ministries and services we can provide to our Catholic families and those most in need in our diocese. If the appeal falls short of its goal, there will be less funds to provide ministries and services. Based on the response of the past few years, we don’t believe this will happen – with a parish best effort and strong, informative communication provided to our donors showing the impact of their gifts, we believe the appeal will be successful.

10. What is the formula for the 2% Cathedraticum tax?

Offertory
Plus Donations
Less School Support up to \$100,000
= Assessable Revenue
Times 2.0%
= Cathedraticum

11. Are there any other collections that will not be assessed?

Yes. These are NOT included in the new assessment formula:

- Capital campaigns that have been approved by Bishop
- Debt Reduction Collection
- Bequests
- Grants and restricted donations that are part of an approved assessment-exempt campaign
- Fundraisers
- Catholic Ministry Appeal donations
- Approved collections such as Mission Sunday Collection and Mission Co-op collections