

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
760-758-4100 x100

Our Life Is Mission

The Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is getting underway this month. All of our Parish households will receive a "love letter" from me asking for your support.

The Diocesan goal this year is \$2.5 million, and our Parish assessment, our fair share, is \$34,000. All money raised over this assessment is returned to us for our Parish use. It will be directed toward our Operations Budget.

Last year our assessment was \$34,000, and we collected \$41,600. \$7,600 was returned to our Parish and this amount was directed to our Operations Budget.

You may return your pledge card to the Parish anytime during the Season of Lent.

The theme of this year's Appeal is "Our Life is Mission." We are reminded that as Disciples of Jesus we have a mission to continue His ministry for this time and place. The funds raised by the ACA help us, the Church of San Diego, to do just that.

The ACA supports:

Education in the Faith

The Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry provides formation for catechetical and evangelization leadership and for catechists of varying levels. The Office facilitates the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and also serves as a resource to parish evangelization and adult formation programs, and to catechetical programs which service more than 37,000 children.

The Office for Youth and Young Adults offers formation, consultation and resources in order to support Parish leadership in their work with youth and young adults and the start-up for Catholic campus ministry at the San Diego Community Colleges.

The Office for Schools enables our 49 Catholic schools to strengthen Catholicity, maintain academic excellence, and provide guidance for granting financial assistance.

The San Diego Diocesan Institute provides adult faith education and ministry preparation for approximately 800 Parishioners throughout the diocese each year.

Priestly Ministry

The Office for Vocations promotes vocations awareness, fosters prayer for vocations, and assists potential candidates for the priesthood.

St. Francis Center for priests and priestly formation provides college level and pre-theology priestly formation, as well as a place for prayer and rest for priests, bishops, and seminarians.

The Office for Priests promotes priestly spirituality, provides programs for ongoing formation, and ministers to over 400 active and retired priests.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities, as the primary social service agency of the diocese, assists approximately one million people each year by providing a network of 42 different programs, including:

- *Emergency Services
- *Counseling Services
- *Pregnancy/Parenting/
Adoption Services
- *Homeless Men Services
- *Senior Services
- *Homeless Women Services
- *Senior Residential
Services
- *Immigration/Refugee
Services
- *Family Support Services

In all these ways, the mission of Jesus continues for this time and this place. Your support is crucial.

In anticipation of your positive response, I offer you my deep gratitude!

Fr. Mike