



Father Adam Maher's love for the Lord ignites students at Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic School in Harbor Beach during Catholic Schools Week 2020. Father Adam serves as the Assistant Vocation Director for the Diocese of Saginaw.



A message from Bishop Gruss....

In my first year as your Bishop, I have experienced your wonderful faith and warm support. We, like every faith community, have been impacted by the pandemic, but through it all, inspiring ministry has taken place and the mission of Jesus Christ continues.

The annual diocesan appeal is an important way in which every Catholic family can serve one another in a sacrificial way. Your sacrificial support is important to us, deeply valued and necessary for the Lord's work to continue and grow.

Please prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance regarding what he is asking of you in light of this year's appeal. Your financial support and your prayers for the mission of our great diocese and the 2020 Christ's Mission Appeal are necessary so that together we may "glorify God through our generosity."

May God bless you and your families!

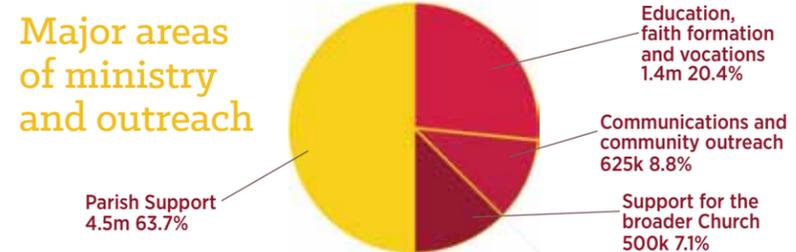
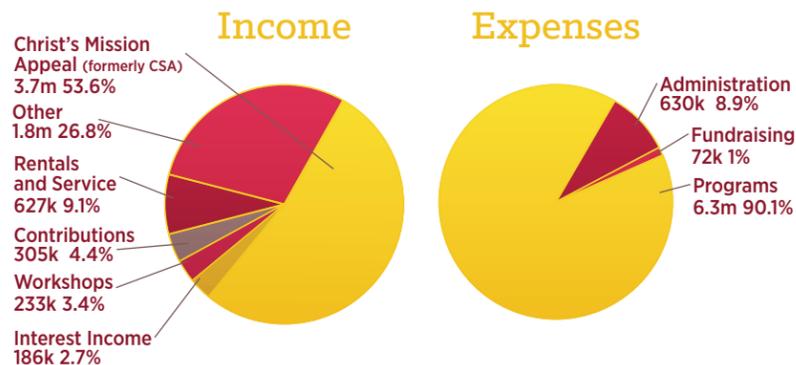
+ Robert D. Gruss



Diocese of Saginaw

Financials

(Three Fiscal Year Average 2018-2020)



What Christ's Mission Appeal Does Not Support

Christ's Mission Appeal contributions are not used and will never be used for the legal defense of clergy accused of sexual abuse.

GOAL \$3,693,000 - This goal has not changed in 13 years

Ways to Give

Secure Online:

[www.saginaw.org/appeal](http://www.saginaw.org/appeal)

Click on the "Donate Now" button

This will direct you to options for making secure monthly installments or a one-time gift using a credit/debit card or a bank account number.

By Mail:

Please complete the pledge card that is included in your Christ's Mission Appeal mailing and return it in the envelope provided. Please return the pledge card to the Diocese of Saginaw.

In Person:

You also may return the pledge card to your parish office or the Chancery Office, or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

5800 Weiss  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-797-6679

[www.saginaw.org/appeal](http://www.saginaw.org/appeal)

God has made every grace abundant for you so you can glorify God through your generosity

"Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

"You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.

"Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others, while in prayer on your behalf they long for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."

2 Corinthians 9:8, 10-15

Christ's Mission Appeal gives Catholics in the Diocese of Saginaw an opportunity to offer thanksgiving to God for His indescribable gifts. Your generosity to this appeal allows for the continuation and expansion of a wide variety of ministries to the faithful, while engaging in the work of evangelization.

## Discipleship

Providing students the opportunity to receive a faith-based, high-quality education through enrollment in one of our 12 Catholic schools is one of many ways to form lifelong disciples of Christ. Welcome Scholarships, introduced last year and partially funded by the annual appeal, resulted in a nearly 8 percent increase in overall students in our Catholic schools.

These scholarships, available for kindergarten through 11th grade students, will continue with contributions to Christ's Mission Appeal and individual funding.

The Diocese also is blessed to have a broad team of volunteers who educate and guide children and adults through religious education. With more than 4,400 people preparing to receive sacraments annually and hundreds of others attending programs and workshops geared to deepen their faith, support is vital.

In addition, nearly 380 trained lay ministers assist in a variety of roles in nearly every parish in the Diocese. These lay ministers complete a four-year program of practical, spiritual and theological training in preparation to assist parish leadership.

## Living the Mission

Many ministries of the Diocese of Saginaw provide services and outreach that would be difficult, financially and logistically, for any one parish or church to do on its own. From training grief counselors to organizing local and national pro-life efforts

and opportunities, providing professional therapy through Catholic Family Service and offering religious enrichment to migrant workers, donations to Christ's Mission Appeal fund these and many more programs.



**Father Christian Tabares distributes Holy Communion during a Spanish language Mass for migrant workers in Michigan's Thumb region.**



**A Nouvel Catholic Central High School student serves meals at a soup kitchen as part of service-based volunteering.**



**Some of the nearly 380 lay ministers who are trained to serve in parishes across the diocese participate in a special Mass for the commissioning of lay ministers.**



**Bishop Robert Gruss receives a flag honoring 13 veterans whose remains were entombed in a crypt at a Diocese of Saginaw cemetery. A special Mass was celebrated for a total of 175 individuals whose remains were never claimed by family or friends. All were entombed.**



**These eight men, pictured with Bishop Gruss, are enrolled in seminary for the Diocese of Saginaw. They attend three different seminaries in the Midwest and are at various stages of their discernment and study for the priesthood.**

## Spreading the Good News

By offering sacred encounters through many forms of digital and print media, we are able to further share the evangelizing mission of Jesus Christ.

Nearly 30,000 households throughout our 11 counties receive FAITH Saginaw magazine, which features inspiring faith stories about people living in our communities. We've increased the number of issues from four to six in the last year.

We share information each week with more than 9,000 email subscribers and welcome an average of 15,373 monthly users to our website in an effort to provide resources to help our people practice their faith. Many of our website visitors connect with local parishes through our website, as well.

We live stream Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption for all who are unable to attend in person (more details below). We also live stream daily Mass via our website, [www.saginaw.org](http://www.saginaw.org), social media and closed circuit television at Ascension St. Mary's hospital.

The number of people who interact with the Diocese of Saginaw's Facebook page is consistently amongst the highest of all U.S. (arch) dioceses as we seek to use social media to bring joy and hope to believers and non-believers alike.



**One of several hundred participants in the local March for Life holds a sign while marching in Saginaw. The local event was held concurrently with the national March for Life this year. It was organized through the diocesan Respect Life Office, which leads local advocacy efforts and raises awareness about the sanctity of all human life.**

Although we have regularly live streamed Masses from the Cathedral since 2019, this year, during a time of unique need during the pandemic, we began streaming Mass each day. Online viewership of our Masses surged to as high as 7,000 to 15,000 viewers per Mass. We continue to adjust our communications to better aid our people.

## Evangelization

The Diocese of Saginaw is blessed to have young men in formation for the priesthood. Donations to Christ's Mission Appeal support seminarians' tuition, housing and medical coverage.

Additionally, donations for the appeal help support vocation education for young people to learn about the priesthood and religious life, and those who work directly with those discerning a vocation.

The appeal also helps to fund events where youth can explore and expand their faith in upbeat and contemporary ways, such as our Witness event for young people.



**FAITH Saginaw magazine is mailed six times each year to all registered parishioners throughout the Diocese of Saginaw.**

## Protecting the Vulnerable

The Diocese of Saginaw is committed to high standards for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Every year, hundreds of individuals participate in safe environment education, helping them to recognize signs of possible abuse or neglect and to report to legal authorities their observations. These individuals include diocesan, parish, and school staff, as well as parish and school volunteers with regular or frequent contact with minors.

