



Called Together Diocesan Annual Appeal

Giving · Sharing · Serving

Week One

Kick-Off Weekend: September 13–14, 2025

Instructions for our Kick-off Weekend – There is no video to be presented

A copy of the initial Appeal Update is attached to the Wednesday Weekly and sets out the **parish goals**. It has not yet been updated with donations received after July 1st.

A few things to note:

Every year we have problems with our database program for the generation of envelopes. This year, we have noticed some problems with the alphabetical order of the envelopes after a number of batches were sent out. Please spot check throughout your batch to see if your envelopes are in order or not.

Here are our recommendations for handling any errors you might come across:

- Ensure that the order of the envelopes is correct.
- If you find any misprinted envelopes or envelopes that have an incorrect address or addressee, please try to reuse them wherever possible. We suggest applying a standard mailing label with a correct address overtop the misprint.
- Envelopes for those who have moved away should also receive a blank mailing label and be used as a spare package for those who may not yet be on the distribution list.
- Envelopes should be held until after the second week of the Appeal. After that time, **please put stamps on the envelopes that have not been picked up and mail them out**. Send the receipt for your postage to the finance office and we will credit your bank account.
- We will likely have additional blank envelopes available after the first week. If you have need for additional bundles, please let us know.
- If you have additional names to add, please send us the proper names and addresses and we will mail out an appeal package to them directly.

Here are the preparatory steps for this weekend:

1. Add the bulletin write-up in your bulletin—see below.
2. Put out posters and any envelopes for parishioners in foyer.
3. Add the prayer below to your universal prayer.
4. Before the final blessing, please **read Bishop Jensen's letter** from the brochure.
5. **Ask parishioners to pick up their envelope**. If they do not have a personalized envelope they are welcome to take a blank one provided.



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6. Please advise parishioners that those who donate by Interac eTransfer should include a message with the name of your parish that should be credited with the donation. Donors can also include their donor number, which is found on the outside of their envelope. If they do not have a donor number, they should ensure that the message includes their name and address so that we can send a tax receipt.

Bulletin Write-Up *(please adapt as needed)*

Today, along with all the other parishes and missions throughout the diocese, we kick-off the Annual Diocesan Appeal: “*Called Together – Giving, Sharing, Serving.*”

As we begin our Appeal Year, we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of 2025–*Pilgrims of Hope*—during which we are called to reflect on our pilgrimage of faith together.

Our appeal is one of the ways in which we journey together. Your support helps those smaller parishes, missions and ministries throughout the whole diocese that need assistance along the way and it is an important way in which you can practice stewardship and participate in the mission of the Church.

Each parish is encouraged to support the appeal because it raises funds for much-needed projects within your own parish. Every dollar raised above the parish’s share of the diocesan goal is returned to the parish for important projects and unmet needs.

The diocesan goal continues to be \$300,000 this year, still far short of the usual \$400,000 we need to provide full support to help those smaller parishes and missions and various ministries in every part of the diocese which continue to face ongoing challenges for which our support is greatly needed.

Our Parish Goal is: \$_____ of which \$_____ goes to support ministries throughout the diocese and \$_____ goes to important projects within our parish.

We thank you for your continued generous support.



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For the pulpit announcement *(please read this letter from Bishop Jensen taken from the brochure)*

The Jubilee Year of 2025 has brought changes in the life of the Church, including the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo. But as we live through change, many things remain constant. As a community of believers, we need to continually answer the call to “help carry one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

Pilgrim sites in the Diocese have given a deeper appreciation of God’s mercy for us on our pilgrim way and connected our local Church to the universal observances in Rome. The Jubilee activities remind us that we are one Body in Christ, no matter where we are in the world.

Our gifts are from Him, entrusted to us to imitate His goodness by giving of our abundance to those in need. The Jubilee of the Old Testament (cf. Leviticus 25) was a time for the people of Israel to acknowledge that God was the owner and giver of all their benefits, reminded them of their status as liberated children of God and helped them express that covenant life by practical assistance to those in need.

The Annual Appeal is our way of exercising Christian stewardship in our time and place to benefit a variety of needs. Smaller parishes and missions in the Diocese, living through severe economic changes, look to us for help to remain viable communities of faith in their localities. In this part of the world, we are accustomed to the vagaries of resource economies and through countless changes have persevered in the mission entrusted to us by the Lord.

I invite you to join me in this year’s Appeal, so that our gratitude to God for His blessings can be expressed in support of the community of faith throughout the Diocese. In this way we will continue to be Jubilee pilgrims together on the way to the Kingdom of God.

+Most Reverend Stephen Jensen



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Universal Prayer

For our entire Diocesan family
as we begin our diocesan annual appeal during this jubilee year:
may God open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters,
and our hearts to generously respond.
We pray to the Lord.