

Frequently Asked Questions

(For possible inclusion in parish bulletins)

How can I be a good steward of my treasure?

Acknowledge that all of my material possessions are gifts from God. Understand that my offering is my "thank you" to such a generous God. Give in proportion to the gifts I have received.

Strive to follow the biblical tithe of 10%, giving a tenth of one's income to God. Tithing is a principle found in the Bible and is a way to acknowledge God's ownership of all we have.

- 5% to the parish offertory
- 1% to the Diocese of La Crosse Annual Appeal
- 4% to other charitable works and collections

How will my gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal be used?

The Diocese develops a year's case statement identifying where the funds will be used. An independent accounting firm reviews the Diocesan Annual Appeal as part of the general Diocesan audit to ensure the funds are used per that year's case statement. The Diocesan audit is published on the www.diolc.org website.

Can I read the Case Statement?

The case statement can be viewed in its entirety on the Diocese of La Crosse website at <http://www.diolc.org/stewardship>

Why should I give to this Appeal?

If our Catholic faith is important to us, the needs of our parish, the Catholic schools, the Diocese, and the wider Church should also be essential. Your contributions to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are not just financial support but a testament to your commitment to our shared faith. Remember, the Church is One Body; a parish could not exist without a Diocese, nor a Diocese without parishes. This connectedness is why we are called Catholics, and it explains why we have the Diocesan Annual Appeal; we are a Universal Church.

Why does the Diocesan Annual Appeal encourage pledges rather than one-time contributions?

While a pledge is not a legal commitment and can be adjusted or even canceled at any time, it provides a structured way to ensure long-term support to the greater Church. This flexibility allows you to contribute more than if you gave a one-time gift, ensuring support for the Diocese's needs and its worldwide missions over the next year.

How will pledges be paid?

Rest assured, the Stewardship Office handles all contributions with the utmost confidentiality and respect for your privacy. Payments are made over a period of months, concluding before June 30th. An initial payment with your pledge is encouraged but optional. Pledge payments can be made with

a check, direct electronic payment, or credit card. Reminders will be sent to the parishioners monthly from the Stewardship Office.

I do give, but I can't give very much.

Even if our financial support seems modest, we should never feel ashamed. Every contribution, no matter how small, is significant in the eyes of God. Like the widow's mite, it is given with love and gratitude, making it a precious offering to our shared faith community.