One Faith, One Family

Diocese of Erie

2025 Catholic Services Appeal Impact Report

"That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you."
-John 17:21

ONE DIOCESE, *United in Mission*

Across 13 counties, the people of the Diocese of Erie come together as ***One Faith, One Family***, united in a shared mission.

Catholic Services Appeal Impact

In 2025, **11,613 households** participated in the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), offering gifts that were faithful, intentional and often sacrificial. With an **average gift of $495**, donors not only helped reach the diocesan goal of **$4.235 million**, but exceeded it—allowing **$1.2 million raised above goal to remain directly in parishes**.

These numbers tell a deeper story: a story of shared responsibility, trust in leadership and a collective belief in the mission of the church.

$495
Average Gift to the CSA

11,613
Number of Donors

$4.235M
Total Gifts Received

2025 CSA Goal *TOTAL: $4,235,000*

- **20%** Catholic Schools & Tuition Assistance
- **19%** Catholic Charities
- **16%** Communications
- **15%** Faith Formation
- **12%** Clergy Services
- **6%** Pastoral Services
- **4%** Tribunal and Matrimonial Concerns
- **3%** Diocesan & International Missions
- **3%** Women Religious & Catholic Rural Ministry
- **2%** Protection of Children & Youth

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we conclude the 2025 Catholic Services Appeal, I extend my sincere gratitude for your generosity and your commitment to the mission we share. Each year, the CSA reminds me what a privilege it is to serve as your bishop, and it offers a powerful witness to the faithfulness of God's people.

Your willingness to give, to serve and to walk together in faith strengthens our diocesan family in ways that are both seen and unseen. Because of you, the ministries that bind our parishes together continue to flourish, and our diocese can respond with hope and courage in a world that longs for the light of Christ.

In my years of ministry among you, I have witnessed again and again the strength, generosity and faithfulness of our people. Through support from the Catholic Services Appeal, hearts are formed in prayer, disciples are accompanied on their journey with Christ and compassion is extended to those who turn to the church in their time of need.

As we look ahead to the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal, I do so with hope. Our theme, **In Christ, We are One: *Encounter Christ · Live Christ · Share Christ***, reminds us of who we are called to be as a church. We are people who encounter Christ, live the Gospel and share his love with others. I trust that the same generosity you have shown this year will continue to strengthen our diocesan family in the year ahead.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. May God reward your goodness and continue to bless our diocese with unity, peace and a deepening love for Christ and his church.

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend
Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of the Diocese of Erie

IN PRAYER: Catholic Schools & Faith Formation

The Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Faith Formation help people of all ages encounter Christ. Though much of their work happens behind the scenes, its impact is evident in classrooms and parish life, where faith is lived daily as students and families pray, learn, serve and grow together.

"At the heart of our diocese is faith formation, the quiet work of Jesus meeting people where they are: young people seeking belonging, families growing in prayer and parish communities being renewed. Through the CSA, your generosity allows us to walk with thousands on their journey, forming hearts grounded in prayer and alive in Christ." **- Jillian Zaczyk,** Executive Director of Faith Formation

CSA Support Provided:

Faith Formation

- **Confirmation Retreat attendance by 400 youth and chaperones**
- National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) participation by **103 youth and adults**, an increase from the previous year
- **634 catechists** serving across the diocese received support from the Faith Formation Office with **41% trained this year**
- **Hundreds** of couples received meaningful guidance, including **94 couples prepared for marriage** and **183 couples honored for milestone anniversaries**

Catholic Schools Office

- **70+ ongoing training and formation programs**

CSA helps keep Catholic education accessible through the work of CSO administrators:

- **$1.17M STAR Foundation** aid to 1,126 students
- **$323K** Bishop's Tuition Assistance Program
- **$22K** Student Tuition Assistance Grants to 78 students
- **$10K** Koch Foundation aid to 41 students

Several of these grants are applied for by the Catholic Schools Office, then administered and distributed to students through the work of its staff.

IN DISCIPLESHIP: Clergy, Sacraments & Communications

The Catholic Services Appeal directly supports the sacramental life of the church—ensuring that God's people are accompanied with care, reverence and faith.

CSA also strengthens evangelization through communications—allowing the church's voice to remain present, clear and welcoming.

"Every resource, every story, every digital outreach effort is designed to help someone encounter Christ. Without your support of the CSA, we could not accompany our parishes so fully or reach hearts across Northwestern Pennsylvania. Your generosity strengthens our call to be disciples—to share the Good News boldly and invite others to experience God's love."
- Kristine Rilling, Executive Director of Communications & Advancement

CSA SupportProvided:

Pastoral Services

- **Five retreats and days of recollection** for priests and deacons
- Support for **50+ diocesan liturgies**, including ordinations and confirmations
- **12 liturgical newsletters** and a diocesan liturgical calendar used across parishes
- Resources for Mass coverage, vocations and **launching an international priest program**

Communications

- **250+ graphics** created for parishes and schools
- Dozens of digital resources and landing pages
- **260% increase** in digital engagement and **310% growth** in visibility
- Faith magazine mailed quarterly to **40,000+ households**
- **Strategic communication** support provided to our parishes, schools and affiliated ministries to assist with sensitive and timely communication needs
- **2 CSA donor appreciation events** held with great success

IN SERVICE: Catholic Charities

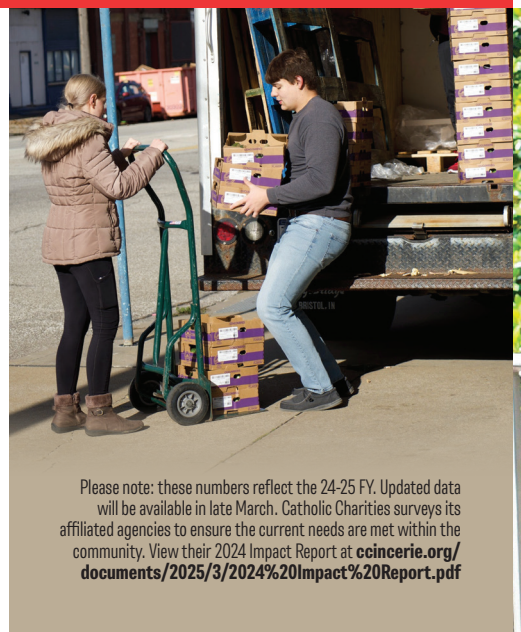
In 2025, Catholic Charities ensured the visible presence of the church at moments of greatest need. Through 7 affiliate organizations across the diocese – funded in part by the CSA – individuals and families received support that upheld dignity and restored hope.

"Every person we serve carries a story of struggle and resilience. Without the support of the CSA, we could not respond with the depth of care our neighbors deserve—from emergency assistance to food, counseling and housing programs. Your generosity ensures that hope is within reach for the people of our diocese."
- Erin Tubbs, Executive Director of Catholic Charities

CSA Support Provided:

- More than **20,000 instances of assistance**
- Professional counseling services to over **1,000 people**
- **25,000 instances of food assistance**
- More than **13,000 hours** of service contributed by **1,817 volunteers**

These outcomes reflect the collective work of Catholic Charities and its affiliates, including Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services, Christ the King Manor, Good Samaritan Center, Prince of Peace Center, Saint John XXIII Home, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Center and Saint Martin Center.



Please note: these numbers reflect the 24-25 FY. Updated data will be available in late March. Catholic Charities surveys its affiliated agencies to ensure the current needs are met within the community. View their 2024 Impact Report at **ccincerie.org/documents/2025/3/2024%20Impact%20Report.pdf**

LOOKING AHEAD & GRATITUDE

In Christ, We Are *One*

As we look ahead to the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal, we do so with confidence rooted in faith. The mission continues—not in isolation, but together, as one diocesan family.

This year's Catholic Services Appeal theme, **In Christ, We are One: *Encounter · Live · Share***, reminds us of this.

Pope Leo XIV encourages us to look to Christ, listen to his offer of love and to become his one family.

That shared spirit of unity is what strengthens the CSA. Together, we achieve what no one can do alone. Your generosity sustains the ministries and offices of our diocese, and through their mission, we are invited to encounter Christ, live His love and share it with others.

"Look to Christ!... Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one."
-Pope Leo XIV

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Stay engaged.
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VIEW THE 2026 CSA VIDEO:

www.ErieRCD.org/CSA.html

As one family of faith, we encounter Christ in the sacraments, live His love in our daily lives, and share His light with all we meet.