

## 2025 Diocesan Services Appeal Frequently Asked Questions For Parish Use – Pastors, Parish Staff, DSA Volunteers

### What is the purpose of the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA)?

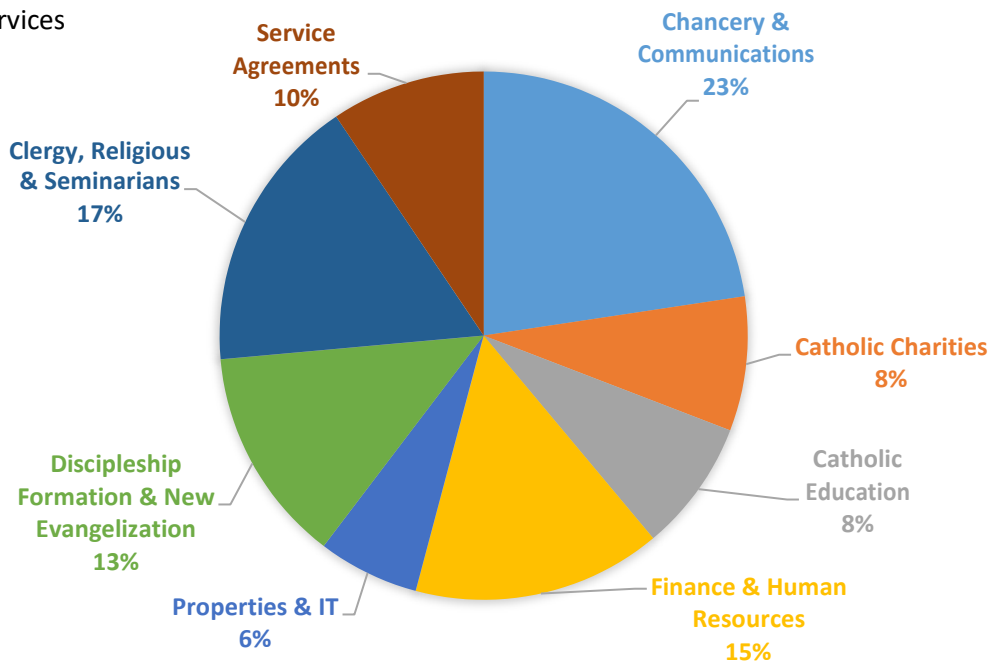
The DSA is an annual appeal, meaning gifts are used to sustain the ongoing, day-to-day work of the Church in our Diocese. Our contributions are put to work right away in a multitude of ministries and activities. The dollars are not invested or reserved for future use.

### How are DSA contributions used?

Contributions are restricted to fund the ministries, programs, and services that offer direct assistance to individuals and families and to our parishes, schools, and affiliated Catholic organizations. These include, but are not limited to:

- Adoption and Foster Care Services
- Building and Property Management
- Campus Ministry
- Care for our Priests – Active and Retired
- Catechesis and Catechist Formation
- Catholic Charities Works of Mercy
- Catholic Schools
- Communications and Technology
- Consecrated Vocations
- Diaconate Formation and Support
- Discipleship and Lay Formation
- Evangelization Initiatives
- Faith-Based Counseling
- FAITH Magazine
- Hispanic Ministries
- Hospital Ministry
- Human Resources and Legal Services
- Marriage and Family Programs
- Marriage Tribunal Services
- Natural Family Planning and Life Ministries
- Outreach Ministries
- Parish Financial Services
- Pregnancy Counseling and Services
- Professional Services for Parishes
- Religious Education
- Restorative Justice/Prison Ministry
- Retreats and Conferences
- Sacramental Records and Archives
- Seminarian Education and Formation
- St. Francis Retreat Center
- Worship and Liturgical Resources
- Young Adult Vocational Formation
- Youth Formation

DSA contributions are the primary source of income for the Central Services Fund of the Diocese of Lansing. A report of the Central Services Fund expenses in fiscal year 2024 is provided to the right.



## **We just gave to the Stewardship for Saints and Scholars Campaign. Why is it important to contribute to DSA?**

Thank you for contributing to the Stewardship for Saints and Scholars capital campaign to benefit catholic education in the Diocese of Lansing. Your campaign contributions will help make Catholic schools across the Diocese of Lansing ever more on mission, affordable, and accessible while also striving to provide an authentically Catholic education to all families who desire it for their children. However, contributions to DSA are used for a different purpose.

## **What's the difference between DSA and Stewardship for Saints and Scholars gifts?**

DSA gifts support the efforts of the many ongoing ministries across the diocese. Stewardship for Saints and Scholars gifts are a long-term investment in the future of Catholic Schools and the education and formation of our children. Both types of gifts are necessary and responsible uses of the financial gifts with which God has graced us as the stewards of His Holy Catholic Church.

## **Is my annual DSA gift really needed?**

Yes. The annual support of the faithful across the diocese is critically important to fund our active, ongoing ministries. All gifts of any size will provide needed support for ministries that benefit your parish and the mission of the Catholic Church throughout the diocese.

## **How are the overall DSA goal and individual parish goals established?**

The overall DSA goal is established by the Bishop and is related directly to the annual financial needs of the diocese. This year's goal is \$5.75 million. Following the determination of the overall DSA goal, parish goals are established through the use of a longstanding formula approved by the Diocese of Lansing Presbyteral Council. The 2025 DSA parish goals are the same as the 2024 goals due to the ongoing Stewardship for Saints and Scholars campaign. Neither prior DSA results nor parish head counts are a part of the formula. The formula is primarily driven by a comparison of Sunday and Holy Day parish offertory collections, and it assures that no parish will have a goal that increases or decreases more than 10% in any year.

## **Will DSA funds be used for costs related to the sexual abuse of minors?**

No. DSA funds have not been nor will be used for costs related to abuse. Nor are DSA funds diverted to help pay abuse costs in other dioceses.

## **Given past instances of embezzlement of parish funds, why should I give when I am skeptical of the financial oversight of my contributions?**

The Diocese of Lansing's financial oversight processes brought financial abuses at the parish level to light. Diocesan finances are audited annually by an independent auditor and parish finances are professionally reviewed by the diocese's department of finance.

### **Will my Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) dollars go to Catholic charities?**

Yes. Last year, the five Catholic Charities within the Diocese of Lansing received 8% of your DSA donations. This money went towards bringing the love of Jesus Christ and His Holy Church to the most vulnerable in our communities through the practice of the corporal works of mercy. Thank you. God bless you.

### **Will my DSA dollars go towards resettling illegal immigrants?**

No. None of the five Catholic charities within the Diocese of Lansing have programs focused on working with illegal immigrants, i.e., immigrants who have entered the United States illegally.

### **Will my DSA dollars go towards resettling legal immigrants?**

No. Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties (CCIEC) does operate a Refugee Resettlement Program for legal refugees who have been processed and approved by the United States authorities outside of the US. These refugees are almost exclusively from Africa and Asia and include those who have helped the United States military in Afghanistan. This long-established service is not funded by your DSA dollars.

### **Will my DSA dollars go to Catholic Charities USA?**

No. Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) is not a franchise organization. That is, although the five Catholic charities of the Diocese of Lansing are affiliated with them, each of our charities is completely independent and operates under the guidance of the Bishop of Lansing and not under the guidance of CCUSA.

### **Will my DSA dollars given to the Diocese of Lansing's Catholic charities be spent responsibly?**

Yes. All Catholic charitable agencies across the Diocese of Lansing undergo strict auditing which requires them to show that all money received goes to the program for which the donation was intended.

### **So, what are my DSA dollars being spent on by the Catholic charities within the Diocese of Lansing?**

Most Catholic charity agencies use the money from DSA to help overcome the deficits incurred in running their therapy programs. Insurance reimburses at such low rates that these agencies are unable to run break-even programs. As a result, much of the DSA money is used for that. One agency uses the money to fund a school counselor in a local Catholic school, another agency uses the money to help fund their food program and clothes closet, another one to fund pregnancy counseling, etc. In sum, it's much needed money!