



## Myths and Facts about the Catholic Services Appeal

**Myth #1: The C.S.A. mandatory target for the parish is based on how well or how poorly the parish did in the C.S.A. the previous year.**

**Fact:** The previous year's C.S.A. drive has nothing to do with this year's mandatory target. Targets are based on an objective formula and this year the C.S.A. calculation was changed. Now the target is determined by looking at a three year average of the parishes' offertory and Christmas collections and applying a rate of 13%, which is a tiered rate based on total offertory. Tiered rates range from 9.5%-15.5%. Thus, as a parish grows, its C.S.A. target grows. As a parish stabilizes or even declines, its C.S.A. begins to go down. A parish can go way over the mandatory target in their C.S.A. and that has **no effect** on the target it will receive the following year. We have been the beneficiaries of such monies ourselves. This past fiscal year we have received over \$100,000 from the C.S.A., all tax free, which we have been able to use to pay down some of the principal on our parish debt.

**Myth #2: The C.S.A. donation is the least effective way to donate money to the parish.**

**Fact:** Just the opposite. The C.S.A. is the most effective way to donate money, since every dollar directly benefits the parish 100%. Either it helps the parish pay its mandatory target, which otherwise must come from its other funds, or it comes back to the parish "tax-free", unlike other contributions that are now taxed at 7%. This means that if someone has a significant donation to give to the parish, the most effective way to do so, the way that benefits the parish the most, is through the C.S.A.

**Myth #3: Withholding C.S.A. money is a good way to send a signal of displeasure to the Archdiocese.**

**Fact:** If you want to show displeasure at the diocese or the bishop, withholding C.S.A. donations only hurts the parish, not the diocese. The diocese will receive all the budgeted money either through the C.S.A. drive or by billing the parishes for the missed target. The best way to show displeasure to the diocese is through a thoughtful, direct letter to Archbishop Vigneron, detailing what your concerns are.

**Myth #4: If we don't reach our C.S.A. target, there is no consequence to the parish.**

**Fact:** If we don't reach our target, the parish must pay the difference out of its other funds. That means we either reduce other operating expenses or take it from our savings. This is a very significant consequence to the parish for not reaching the mandatory target.

**Myth #5: No parish makes its C.S.A. target. Targets are way too high.**

**Fact:** While the overall C.S.A. budget of the diocese can certainly be argued about, the majority of parishes make their C.S.A. target every year, including last year. Most parishes use the C.S.A. to raise additional funds, because they know they will go significantly over their targets and not have to pay any diocesan assessment on that money. It all comes back to the parish "tax free".

**Myth #6: C.S.A. dollars were used to pay for costs related to cases of clergy abuse of minors or for projects outside the Diocese.**

**Fact:** No C.S.A. dollars have ever gone toward projects outside the diocese. Also, no C.S.A. dollars have gone toward defending allegations of sexual misconduct or for payouts to bring such situations to a close. The C.S.A. budget is pre-approved and C.S.A. money goes toward funding those programs and offices for which it was budgeted.

**Myth #7: The Archdiocese has plenty of money for all of its programs and doesn't really need this C.S.A. money.**

**Fact:** The budget for the C.S.A. (\$17.9 million this year) represents the largest portion of the overall yearly Archdiocesan budget. Money is also received by assessing all parishes 7% of their Offertory and parish fund-raising money (raising approximately \$11 million) and by investing reserves in the financial markets. Also at times the Archdiocese gets some bequests from wills and other donations. But without the C.S.A. monies the Archdiocese would not be able to maintain most of its many ministries as an Archdiocesan Church.

*If you have any other questions, please call the parish office and talk with the pastor, Fr. Festus Ejimadu, the business manager, Mrs. Paula Klozik, or ask for a member of the parish's Finance Council to get back to you.*