

Dear Friends in Christ,

April 25, 2018

The **2018 Catholic Services Appeal** has begun. Each year, Catholics from across the Archdiocese have the opportunity to join together as Christian stewards to live out the Gospel mission of our Church through this appeal. When we support the C.S.A., we support a multitude of ministries, programs and services, including permanent diaconate, Safe Environments, Young Adult and Campus Ministry.

Our mandatory target this year is **\$90,520**. The goal is calculated using the three year average of Sunday and Christmas collections and is assessed at 13%. Included with this letter is a “C.S.A. Myths and Facts Sheet” to cover some of the common questions people have about the C.S.A. and the assigned target.

How much should you consider giving? Due to the age of our complex, the parish Finance Council has identified future building maintenance projects that need to be addressed in the next five years, including roof replacement for the church and formation wing, new heating and cooling units for the formation wing and replacing the parking lot. Since every dollar you contribute helps the parish 100% either by helping us reach the mandatory target or, once over the target, by coming back to the parish for our own use *without* any tax taken out of it, we are hoping to use C.S.A. to fund these capital projects. With this in mind, if every parish household prays about this and gives **\$500-\$600** toward C.S.A., we will reach our goal. Some can give more and others can give less so please remember it is not about equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. If most of us make some type of pledge/donation, we will exceed our mandatory target and have money set aside for future capital improvements.

To make your participation in the 2018 C.S.A. as convenient as possible, we have included a form below along with a return envelope. List your total pledge, any amount you are paying immediately, and any balance due. Let us know how you want to pay the balance—in 4 or 9 installments. This year (after May 1st) there is an option of going to <http://ssjp.aodcsa.org> to make your pledge and payments online. We also offer the option of paying the C.S.A. pledge in full or making C.S.A. payments by going to the parish website (www.ssjohnandpaul.org) or using the parish app (myparishapp.com) and follow the links for online giving. If you choose one of the online options, please check the appropriate box on the form below and return the form without any payment.

We ask that you try to return the enclosed form along with any check/money in the Sunday collection within the next two weeks (May 5/6 or May 12/13). If you prefer to drop it off in person, you may do so at the parish office any time or in the gathering space after Mass on those two weekends. Please don't hesitate to ask questions or share concerns.

Even if you are unable financially to contribute this year, just mark the card with a '0' and send it in. We then know we do not need to contact you or send you a follow-up letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fr. Festus Ejimadu
Pastor

(PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO RETURN IT)

NAME: _____ ENV. #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOTAL PLEDGE: _____

AMOUNT PAYING: _____

BALANCE DUE: _____

How would you prefer to pay any balance due (begins in July)?

- Monthly: 9 Equal Payments
 Quarterly: 4 Equal Payments

(Make checks payable to:
“SS. John and Paul Parish/CSA”)

- I used the AOD online giving option
 I used the Parish online giving option



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 the calculation 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 received over \$130,000 from the C.S.A., all tax free, which was used to improve the sound system in the church and install vinyl siding and windows in the Formation Wing.

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 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 parish 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.