

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
With a heart full of gratitude, I invite you to join me in supporting the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). This year's theme, **"In Christ, We Are One,"** reminds us that together we **encounter, live** and **share** Christ in every corner of the Diocese of Erie.

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

His words are not only a reflection but a summons – calling us to live as one Body in Christ.

We carry this out in our diocese whenever we gather for the sacraments, stand with one another in joy or hardship and extend Christ's love to those in need.

ENCOUNTER ♦ LIVE ♦ SHARE

Through the CSA, your gift becomes a tangible response, strengthening the church here at home and beyond. From the Chrism Mass at St. Peter Cathedral, blessed oils are sent to every parish. They anoint us in baptism, confirmation and the anointing of the sick – ensuring the faithful across our diocese encounter Christ in life's most sacred moments.

That same generosity forms leaders, strengthens families and sustains Catholic education, helping us live Christ's love in our homes and communities. And it extends beyond our borders through Catholic Charities and our diocesan Missions Office, bringing Christ to the poor and most vulnerable.



I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to this year's CSA, so this vital work may continue to make an impact.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity and your witness. Together, *In Christ, We Are One.*

Sincerely yours in Christ,

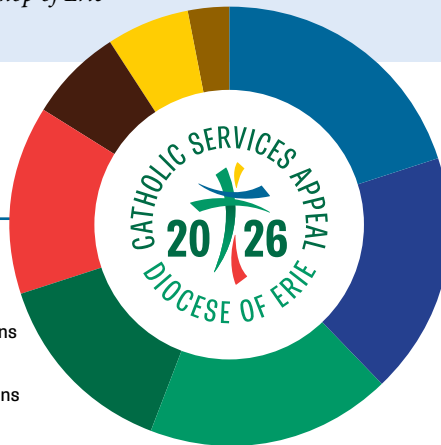


Lawrence T. Persico

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

2026 CSA Goal
TOTAL: \$4,235,000

- 20% Catholic Schools & Tuition Assistance
- 18% Catholic Charities
- 18% Communications
- 14% Faith Formation
- 14% Clergy Services
- 7% Pastoral Services
- 6% Seminary & Vocations
- 3% Diocesan & International Missions



Prayer for the Catholic Services Appeal

God of unity and peace,

*Through Christ your Son,
you call us to encounter your mercy in the sacraments,
to live your compassion in our lives,
and to share your Good News as one family.*

*Through the power of your Spirit,
help us to live as Christ each day—
to see as he sees,
to love as he loves,
to serve as he serves—
That our witness will proclaim:
"In Christ, we are one."*

*For he lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.*

Amen.

Ways to Give

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION AT YOUR PARISH

The best way to make your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal is through your parish – by submitting your pledge card in person or by mail. You may also make a secure online gift at www.ErieRCD.org/CSA.html or by scanning the QR code below.

Your generosity strengthens the ministries of the Diocese of Erie, uniting us in faith and service across 13 counties.
In Christ, we are one.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers – including companies you currently work for or are retired from – offer matching gift programs. Check with your Human Resources department to see if your employer will match your contribution.

You can double your gift and double your impact in support of the ministries of the Diocese of Erie.

IRA, QCD & PLANNED GIFTS

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the Catholic Services Appeal, which may offer potential tax benefits. Qualified distributions of up to \$108,000 per year per taxpayer can be excluded from taxable income.

To learn more, contact your IRA administrator or financial advisor to discuss using your IRA – or other planned giving options – to support the ministries of the Diocese of Erie.



DIOCESE of ERIE

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SCAN HERE

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

In Christ, We Are One



Diocese of Erie
**2026 Catholic
Services Appeal**



ENCOUNTER ♦ LIVE ♦ SHARE



ENCOUNTER CHRIST *In the Sacraments*

Sacred oils touch every parish, school and ministry across the Diocese of Erie. They mark the beginning of Christian life in baptism, strengthen believers in confirmation, consecrate the priests' hands at ordination and bring healing and comfort through the anointing of the sick. These holy oils are vital signs of God's grace at work in the lives of the faithful. *In Christ, we are one*—joined together in the sacraments that unite us as His people.

Each year, during the Chrism Mass, priests from across the diocese gather with Bishop Persico in a profound celebration of unity and faith. During this sacred liturgy, the oils are consecrated and then distributed across our 13 counties.

Through the work of pastoral services, these sacred gifts reach even further — to hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and outreach ministries — ensuring that all have the opportunity to encounter Christ in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal helps make this unity in the sacraments possible.



LIVE CHRIST *Through* *Formation & Discipleship*

To live Christ is to be transformed by Him and shaped as His disciples. In the Diocese of Erie, this mission thrives because our diocesan family works together to strengthen every parish, school and home. *In Christ, we are one*, and without this shared support, the work of forming disciples would not be possible.

Pastoral Services, Faith Formation, the Catholic Schools Office and the Communications Team work together to equip catechists, parish leaders and families with the tools and guidance needed to live the Gospel. Their collaboration ensures strong, consistent sacramental preparation and meaningful faith-growth opportunities for all ages.

Confirmation especially reveals the fruit of this unity. As young people are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, they are strengthened not only by their parish, but by the entire diocesan family supporting them on their journey.

Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal makes this mission possible, helping every parish and Catholic school form disciples who truly live Christ.



SHARE CHRIST *Through* *Missions & Mercy*

Christ tells us, “*Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.*” (Mt 25:40)

Across 13 counties, the Diocese of Erie shares Christ through the work of Catholic Charities, the Missions Office and countless parish outreach efforts. From assisting local families to supporting rural ministries and mission partnerships with the Archdiocese of Yucatán, these ministries extend Christ's love to those most in need.

Catholic Charities equips parishes with essential tools, training and resources that help them respond to needs within their own communities through programs that uphold dignity and bring hope. At the same time, the Missions Office fosters global solidarity by guiding parish efforts in service and evangelization, providing direction and resources for those called to reach beyond our borders. Together, these ministries empower the faithful to share God's love both locally and around the world — a living witness that, *in Christ, we are one*.

Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal sustains these works of mercy and ensures that the church's mission continues to reach every corner of our diocese and beyond — uniting us as one in Christ.

