



Dear

One of Pope Francis' favorite topics is hope. He often reminds us that hope has a name, and it is Jesus Christ. In the opening sentence of the apostolic exhortation, Christ Lives, Pope Francis says: "Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, and full of life!"

Pope Francis constantly reminds everyone that hope does not abandon us. The Lord Jesus walks with us. In response to the gift of hope, the Lord Jesus asks us to accompany others on our journey to the Father. This accompaniment must be steady and reassuring. It must reflect a closeness and a compassionate gaze which heals, liberates and encourages. It happens especially by listening (The Joy of the Gospel, 169-173).

Pope Francis also reminds us that this accompaniment is provided by true missionary disciples who become the face of hope in our world. The annual Catholic Ministries Drive in our diocese supports 14 ministries through which people are accompanied in their journey. With all the challenges caused by a global pandemic, our world, our nation, our communities, our parishes and our families need tangible expressions of hope.

There are so many gifted and generous laypersons in our diocese who share their time and talent to support our Catholic ministries. Without their help and your help, we could not fulfill our mission. I am grateful for everyone's help in this mission of accompaniment. The year 2021 is a time for everyone to BE A DISCIPLE OF HOPE! By participating in the Catholic Ministries Drive, your contributions support those who accompany and those who are accompanied on their journey.

Pope Francis describes the disciple of hope as a person who stands by, and with and for those who need the gift of hope. Besides the Lord Jesus who is our hope, the greatest example of this discipleship of hope is the Blessed Virgin Mary. She stood by in awe and wonder when her Son was lying in a manger. She stood by as Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding in Cana. Mary stood by the young disciple John when Jesus died on the cross. Mary stood by the apostles as they hid in sadness and fear in the upper room until the appearance of the Risen Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Mary stands by, and for and with us as patroness of our Diocese. Mary teaches each of us to BE A DISCIPLE OF HOPE!

Thank you for your generous support of the 2021 Catholic Ministries Drive! Please help everyone experience the discipleship of hope!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown Diocese

100% of your gift supports

NURTURING OUR YOUTH | Campus Ministry, Educating Youth, Sacramental Preparation, Youth Ministry

CARING FOR THE POOR AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES | Catholic Charities, Family Life, Fulton County Catholic Mission, Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica

FORMING CLERGY AND LAITY | Adult Enrichment, Christian Initiation (RCIA), Evangelization, Lay Ecclesial Ministry, Priests' Vocations, Ongoing Formation of Priests and Deacons



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Text CMDAJ to 555888 to give.

Total Gift amount: _____ Payment enclosed: _____
Check#: _____ Check date: _____
Balance Due: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE**

- This gift is **ANONYMOUS**.
- Please do NOT mail a receipt.
- Please send me information on how to remember my parish in my will.

To receive a tax deduction for 2021, checks must be postmarked by December 31, 2021. 2021 tax receipts will be mailed in January 2022.

“Hope has a name, and it is **JESUS CHRIST.**” Pope Francis

Wherever there is Jesus, there is hope. His name brings to life the hope he wants you to experience as His very own disciple.

The Catholic Ministries Drive is a parishioner supported campaign. In FY 2019-2020, \$1,656,653 was allocated. 100 percent of every dollar is restricted to the ministries.

Supporting the ministries is an easy pathway for you to become a disciple.

Here’s how your dollars have brought hope to you, your family, your parish, and your community. Please support the 2021 Catholic Ministries Drive today. **NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL TO PROVIDE HOPE.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

\$480,000 (7,888 individuals served)
Providing hot meals, warm beds and open hearts to those in need.

- † Counseling
- † Food and Shelter
- † Emergency Financial Help



VOCATIONS

\$332,339
Following the footsteps of Christ.

- † Educating 6 men to become priests, and 6 men to become deacons
- † Continued spiritual learning for 43 diocesan priests, 45 permanent deacons, and 94 brothers and sisters

Our newest seminarian



John Roy

EVANGELIZATION

\$669,249
Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

- † Youth and Campus Ministries
- † Religious Education
- † Mission Support
- † Outreach Programs
- † Parish Life and Family Life



FAITHFUL SERVICE

\$175,065
Supporting the healthcare needs of retired priests who continue to:

- † Celebrate Mass
- † Comfort and visit the sick
- † Visit the homebound
- † Educate the community



Your birthdate _____
 Spouse's birthdate _____
 Daytime phone _____
 Email address _____

- I have included the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in my will.
- I would like to learn more about supporting the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown through a bequest, a life income gift or some other tax-wise gift plan. Please contact me.
- I would like to support my faith through appreciated stock and/or a qualified charitable distribution from my IRA. Please contact me.



Mail to: 2021 Catholic Ministries Drive
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
PO Box 409
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-0409

Questions or concerns? Please contact:
Office of Stewardship and Development
814.695.5577 or **pseasoltz@dioceseaj.org**

Learn more about your Diocese online at:
www.dioceseaj.org