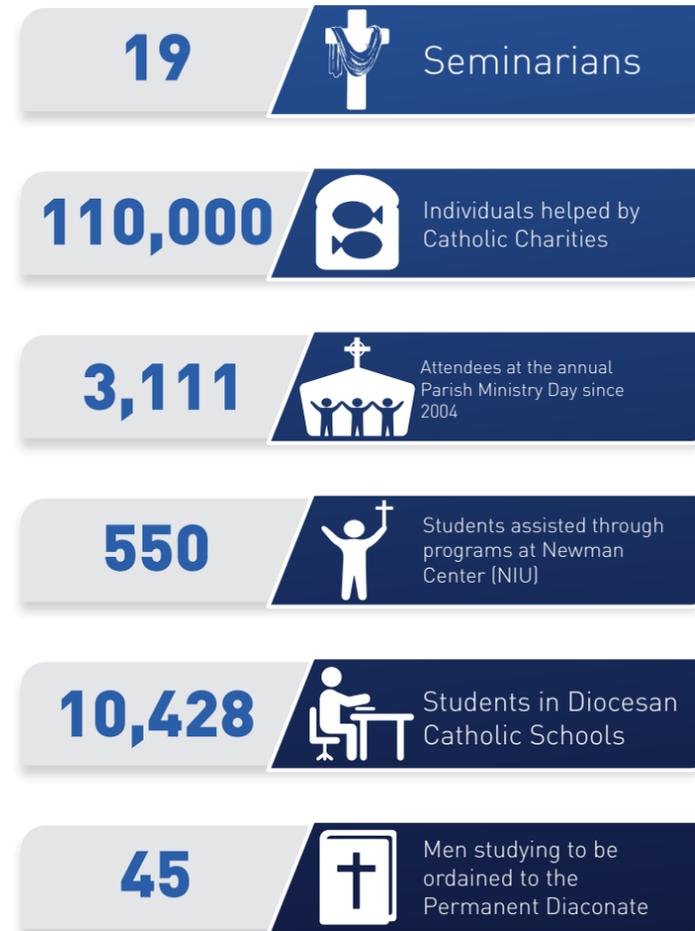




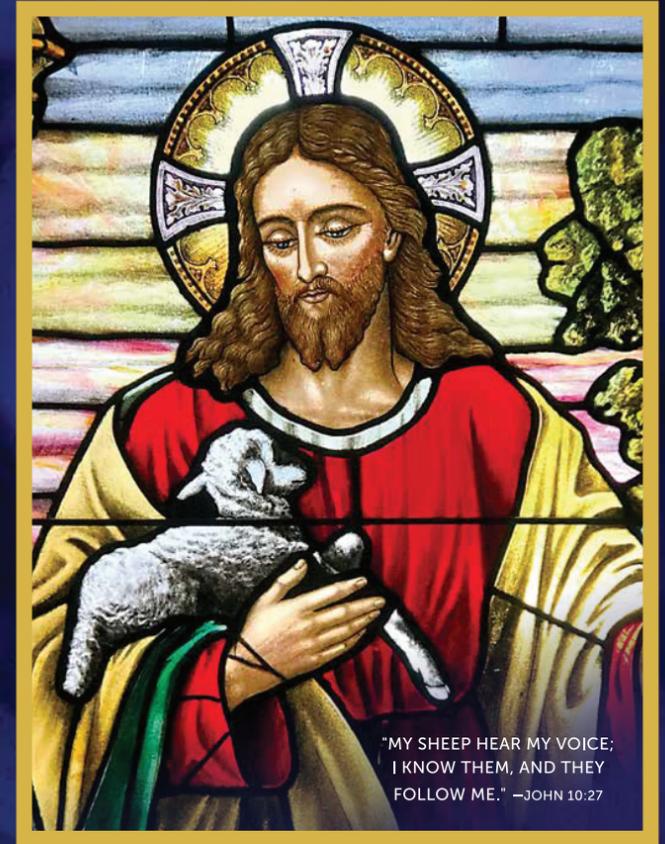
## 2020 DIOCESAN APPEAL

### YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



#### Our Mission Statement

We, the People of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, are called by the Father through baptism to be the new People of God. United in faith and relying on the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, we have access to the redeeming love of Jesus, the Christ, and are called to share in his mission to proclaim the Reign of God in Word, Sacrament and Service.



# HEAR HIS VOICE

2020 DIOCESAN APPEAL  
DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

MAY 2020 THROUGH MAY 2021

**45** YEAR Anniversary  
Diocesan Annual Appeal  
1975-2020

### 2020 Appeal Prayer

Heavenly Father, Lord of all creation,  
we your children bless and praise your holy name.

In all the world your love is reflected and we,  
your disciples, seek to discover your presence  
and listen to your voice. As we hear you invite us to love,  
to serve and to lead in Your name,  
help us be good stewards of your many gifts.

Help us to be hands that reach out to others as You did.  
Help us to stop and remember we do what we do in Your name.  
Help us to be authentic disciples, planting seeds of faith wherever  
we go. May all the world hear Your voice calling all to Love as You  
Love by the living of our lives. In our response to our sisters  
and brothers in the Diocese of Rockford, grant us grateful hearts  
and give us the courage to share our many gifts of  
time, talent and financial treasure with all those who are in need.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Written by:  
Rev. Richard Rosinski, Pastor  
St. Mary Parish, Byron

**Please contact the Office of Charitable Giving (815) 399-4300  
if you have questions on the following:**

- Making a gift of Stock or through my Retirement Fund
- Donating gifts of grain.
- Please send me information on how to include the Church in my Will.
- I have already remembered the church in my Will. Please enroll me in the Perpetual Light Society.
- I want to subscribe to The Observer to learn more about Catholic news

**To give online, please visit [www.rockforddiocese.org/donate](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/donate)**

# How do We Hear His Voice?

May 2020

“Hear His Voice.”

We find ourselves living in extremely challenging times. But as people of faith, we know God is far greater than this recent pandemic. He can bring good out of whatever comes along to challenge us – and He wants us to Hear His Voice especially in these times – with faith, with hope, and with love in our hearts and minds.

Perhaps you have learned how important your Catholic faith is to you ... and for you. We trust that you were able to draw strength from the efforts made by our priests, parishes and the diocese to keep everyone safe and still offer prayer-filled support and helpful teaching – sometimes online, by telephone and other times with our hidden prayers.

The Diocese of Rockford provides programs and personnel to help you, as parishioners of the Diocese, to hear and follow Jesus whenever he reaches out to you.

Education is essential in forming our seminarians for ordination to the priesthood. These men have heard Jesus’ call and are preparing to bring the love and presence of Jesus to others as priests of our Diocese. The same goes for our deacons. Forty-five years ago the first class of permanent deacons was ordained in our Diocese. The Office of the Permanent Diaconate continues to this day – preparing deacons to teach, baptize, visit the sick, assist at the altar, and otherwise serve the people of their parishes.

Engaged and married couples, youth and families are all served through programs offered by the Life and Family Evangelization (LiFE) Office. The Diocesan Education Office supports and guides our Catholic schools. Its Ministry Formation Program and the Diocesan Theological Institute (DTI) educate, train, and form lay leaders at our parishes. Other diocesan offices support parishes in a variety of ways from payroll to Hispanic Ministry to retreats at Bishop Lane Retreat Center.

The Church always has heard Jesus in the voices of the poor. Catholic Charities serves Christ in our brothers and sisters through a multitude of programs to address their needs for food, clothing, counseling, and emergency assistance.

We all have faced so many challenges these past few months. And now, more than ever we need the support of each other physically, spiritually and financially. Thank you for whatever gifts you are able to make to this year’s Annual appeal. Together we continue the work of Christ in our ministries as we strive to recover. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family and thank you for your support of the diocesan church.

May God greatly bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Bishop David J Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford



## You Support the People in Need through Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockford has the enviable role of being the Church’s face-to-face presence in the lives of the region’s neediest people. What some may see as obligations or inconveniences, Catholic Charities sees as opportunities to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the afflicted. The challenge is to provide the diverse financial, material and geographical resources to accomplish those objectives.



## You support the Education of Our Youth in the Catholic Faith

For our children, the voice of Christ and the message of the Gospel are first heard in our families. Our parish faith formation and religious education programs, Catholic schools, campus ministry and sacramental preparation programs inspire devotion to lead an entire life of faith and service to our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Diocesan Appeal not only sustains our faith formation, education and campus ministry programs, it also supports young adults in their faith journeys, strengthening our local parish and faith communities.



## You Support Your Parish

Funds donated to the Diocesan Appeal returns to your parish in the form of services and programming that your parish would have a difficult time providing on its own. Funds from the Diocesan Appeal provide the tools and resources to parishes to keep them running smoothly, supporting the work of pastors, pastoral administrators, parochial administrators and parish staff, and supporting vibrant ministries and outreach that serve our parishioners and communities. The Diocesan Appeal nourishes our ministries and helps us to share our faith with others.



## You Support Seminarians, Deacons, and Vocations

Each Sunday, when we gather as a parish for Holy Mass, we experience Jesus Christ in the reading of the scriptures and in the reception of the Eucharist. In the seven deaneries of our Diocese, we have been blessed with men who have chosen to lead a life of ordained service as priests and deacons to our many parishes and faith communities.

Your gift to the Diocesan Appeal not only supports those men actively discerning a vocation to ordained ministry, but also provides professional development and training to pastoral leaders, and funding to promote vocations.

Tear here and insert into envelope



### GIFT OPTION [CHOOSE #1 OR #2]

#### 1. Enclosed, please find my ONE-TIME GIFT of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to Your Parish - DA)
- I will make my gift by credit card or EFT online at [www.rockforddiocese.org/donate](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/donate)

#### 2. My Pledge

I wish to PLEDGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the 2020 Diocesan Appeal

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Balance Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to Parish Name-DA)

I would like to contribute:

- Monthly, pledge to be fulfilled by May 21, 2021 (10 payments)
- Quarterly, pledge to be fulfilled by May 21, 2021 (4 payments)
- Gift of Stock, Donor Advised Fund, Retirement Fund
- Online by credit card or ACH at [www.rockforddiocese.org/donate](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/donate)
- Please send pledge reminders by mail to be fulfilled by May 21, 2021. Statements mailed July 2020 through May 2021. (Quarterly July, Oct, Jan, April).
- Do not send reminder

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” - John 10:27