



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

Office of Stewardship and Development

Through much prayer and discernment, it has been decided to move the Annual Catholic Appeal to the fall beginning in 2017.

Why make changes?

- The ACA (Annual Catholic Appeal) always funds the operating budget of the diocese for the next fiscal year: July 1 - June 30. Since the ACA runs just before the new fiscal year, budget decisions must be made prior to knowing the actual income from the ACA. Moving the ACA to the fall allows the diocese to more accurately predict income from the Appeal prior to making budget decisions for the next fiscal year.
- In most parishes, life begins again in the fall. People are back from summer vacations, and the new school year has begun. It is a new beginning, a great time before the end of the calendar year to commit ourselves to support our diocese through the ACA.
- People are thinking of tax deductible gift giving.

How are we planning to transition?

- In the calendar year 2017 there will be TWO Annual Catholic Appeals. The first Appeal (February 11-12, 2017) will be the regular winter collection. The income from this ACA will fund the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- The second Appeal will be in the fall of 2017 (September 30 - October 1, 2017). The fall collection will fund the 2018-2019 fiscal year. After the fall collection, there will not be another Annual Catholic Appeal until the fall of 2018.

How does my parish benefit?

People often perceive, "Church happens primarily in the parishes." In a sense, that is true. At the same time, a broader dimension of the Church extends the mission of the Church beyond the needs of the local parish. As Catholics, we form a diocesan-wide community of faith, which together fosters the saving mission of Christ. Catholics know that they "belong" to more than their home parish; they also participate in the life of the diocese. People in the pews benefit in various ways (sometimes unknown or not recognized) from the services and programs supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Why is it important to support both the Annual Catholic Appeal and my parish?

Parish gifts comprise an essential source of funds that enliven the sacramental life of the parish community and help defray costs that a parish directly incurs. In a similar way, gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal help support additional programs and services that strengthen parish programs and ministries that serve many throughout the wider community. Both need our support.