

Bishops

ANNUAL APPEAL 2010



With joy and thanksgiving, Bishop Donald Bolen welcomed hundreds of youth and families to the Eucharistic celebration held during Rock The Mount Aug. 21 at Mount Carmel shrine.

“Growing in Faith ... Living in Hope ... Giving in Love”

BAA continues to nourish ministry across diocese

A lot has changed since Bishop James Mahoney began the Bishop's Annual Appeal 26 years ago as a way to combine resources from across the diocese to offer needed ministries, services and programs in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The diocese has grown in many ways since then, and the challenges of living and proclaiming the gospel have also increased in an age that needs the gospel message of Jesus Christ more than ever.

“Thanks to the BAA, the list of ministries, training, outreach and support being offered in the diocese has also grown in number and in scope since Bishop Mahoney made that first Appeal,” says Don Gorsalitz of the Catholic Foundation office.

It's a diocesan success story that touches thousands each year as ministry happens in hospitals and parishes, in catechetics classes and on college campuses, among youth and for the grieving, for those who are seeking and those who are suffering,

Each prairie bishop in his turn – Bishop James Weisgerber, Bishop Albert LeGatt, and now for the first time, Bishop Donald Bolen – has continued the Annual Appeal. Along the way, we have learned what the entire community can accomplish by working together, in a spirit of stewardship and evangelization, a spirit of generosity and vision, said Gorsalitz.

“The impact of 26 years of BAA-supported ministry has made a real difference to our faith family and to groups in our broader community.”

That impact is a direct result of the generosity of all those who year after year have faithfully supported the Appeal: lay and ordained, urban and rural, volunteers and donors. **As the needs continue to grow, each member of the diocesan faith family is asked to consider again the value of the many ministries supported by the BAA.**

What remains certain is that whether its connecting with youth, forming faith at all ages, promoting vocations, educating seminarians, supporting our priests and retired priests, reaching out to the sick and imprisoned, working for justice or fostering ecumenism, – no parish can do all of this alone.

“This year, the diocesan faithful are being asked to consider increasing their support for the Bishop's Annual Appeal,” said Gorsalitz. “Recognizing that many already are giving at a sacrificial level or may not be in a position to increase their contribution, it is vital to stress that each and every contribution, no matter how large or small, is needed and appreciated,” he added.

“When the people of our diocese learn that there is a need, they have always responded as generously as they can. Together we can continue the good work of the BAA and the ministries it supports.”

The goal for this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal is \$1.5 million

Growing in Faith ...

Why the increase?

This, year, our diocesan faith family is being asked to consider contributing more than ever to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, with the 2010 goal set at \$1.5 million.

"The reason for this requested increase is that our faith community has many unmet needs within the programs that support us in our parish and our larger diocesan faith community," says Don Gorsalitz of the new Catholic Foundation office, which now administers the Bishop's Annual Appeal in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

In meetings throughout the diocese in recent years and in consultation around a new Diocesan Vision, people from across the diocese have expressed a desire to strengthen and revitalize faith and to create a vibrant, caring faith community.

In almost every area of diocesan ministry, there are increasing calls to do more to meet the needs of the Catholic community, Gorsalitz points out.

"Right now we have a single person working in our diocesan Youth Ministry office as a resource and a support for 96 parishes, at a time when proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ is more important than ever in a world filled with many other voices, media and messages," notes Gorsalitz. "There is an ongoing challenge to do more to engage our youth."

The vital importance of providing Catholic pastoral and spiritual care in all of the city's hospitals is increasingly recognized. With the establishment of a diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy office, outreach is happening at Royal University and Saskatoon City Hospitals. The Bishop's Annual Appeal has also provided financial support for the excellent spiritual care provided at St. Paul's Catholic Hospital. "However, there is still a long way to go to meet the needs of the sick, the lonely and the suffering," says Gorsalitz, observing that spiritual care is not always a priority in secular institutions, and therefore, requires the Catholic community's leadership.

This year, Restorative Ministry is being added to the list of ministries funded by the BAA. Providing outreach in prisons, to victims and family members, the diocesan Restorative Ministry office was initially supported by an external foundation and an individual parish. With help from the BAA, the important strides in healing, reconciliation and outreach that are happening through this office can continue, says Gorsalitz. "Through this ministry, we are discovering how great the need is in our prisons for faith and for ongoing support for those trying to change their lives."

The good news that the diocese of Saskatoon now has nine young men preparing for ordination is something to be celebrated, Gorsalitz notes. At the same time, this also means financial support is needed for the education and formation of our seminarians – a key area funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Recently, the diocesan faith community responded generously to a special appeal for the Priest Pension Fund. "The fact is that this pension fund also still needs more support from the BAA."

Where your contributions to the Bishop's Annual Appeal were allocated last year:

DIOCESAN MINISTRIES

Catholic Deaf Ministry	\$ 8,000
Communications	\$ 74,000
Ecumenism	\$ 28,000
Education of Laity for Ministry	\$ 17,000
Education of Priests & Future Priests	\$ 70,000
Grants in Support of Rural Ministry	\$ 40,000
Hospital Chaplaincy	\$ 40,000
Lay Formation Program	\$ 137,000
Liturgy Commission	\$ 10,000
Marriage & Family Life	\$ 16,000
Ministry Development	\$ 72,000
Native Religious Ministry	\$ 67,000
Office for Justice & Peace	\$ 9,000
Priests' Pension Fund	\$ 142,000
Resource Library	\$ 30,000
Rural Catechetics	\$ 114,000
Vocations	\$ 20,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 58,000

BAA Parish Sharing Incentive
(To parishes exceeding BAA goal) \$ 125,500

EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Christian Outreach	\$ 5,000
Catholic Family Services	\$ 50,000
Friendship Inn	\$ 15,000
L'Arche Saskatoon	\$ 5,000
Newman Centre/Campus Ministry	
- St. Thomas More College	\$ 5,000
St. Paul's Hospital	
- Spiritual Care	\$ 7,000
St. Peter's College	\$ 25,000
Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation	\$ 5,000
Support of Life	\$ 8,000
Teen-Aid	\$ 36,000



Lay Formation

At a spring 2010 celebration, our new bishop (left) commissioned participants graduating from the two-year Lay Formation program to "Go forth in joy to extend the mission of Jesus." Since Lay Formation was launched in the diocese in 1987, about 700 participants have gone forth to their parishes, families and communities inspired to live out their baptismal call more fully in love and service. A new Catholic Aboriginal Lay Formation stream offers the program in the context of First Nations traditions and spirituality.

... Living in Hope



Marriage and Family Life

Hundreds attended a national marriage conference held in Saskatoon in 2010 (above), coordinated by the diocesan office for Marriage and Family Life. Supporting families faced with a myriad of challenges is a priority for our faith communities. Whether it is preparing young couples for Christian marriage, connecting with couples in need of support and enrichment, walking with those grieving the end of a marriage, or providing counselling and support to those in crisis – marriage and family ministries funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal work to address a wide-range of needs.



Youth Ministry

A volunteer member of the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (above), enthusiastically participates in praise and worship. The retreat team provides peer-led youth ministry, and can be booked by parishes across the diocese. Expanding ministry to youth of all ages remains a diocesan priority funded by the BAA.

... Giving in Love

Growing in Faith ...



Vocations / Education of Future Priests

This year at St. Peter's Parish in Unity, Bishop Donald Bolen welcomed seminarian Geoffrey Young into the Order of Deacons, one more step on his journey to ordination as a priest for the diocese of Saskatoon (*left*). Seminarian Matthew Ramsay was also ordained to the transitional diaconate this summer. These are two of nine young men presently studying for the priesthood in the diocese of Saskatoon. The BAA supports the promotion of vocations as well as the education of priests and future priests.

... Living in Hope



Justice and Peace

On Good Friday each year hundreds walk and pray together in an ecumenical Way of the Cross through the streets of Saskatoon (*above*) organized by the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace in conjunction with many community and church groups. The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports the Office for Justice and Peace, which works to raise awareness and promote action on a wide range of justice issues in our world.

... Giving in Love

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation
100-5th Ave N., Saskatoon, SK S7K 2N7

Phone: 382-4240 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005
E-mail: baa@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com



Catholic Deaf Ministry

Sign language interpreting services for Sunday Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations are provided by the office for Catholic Deaf Ministry, funded by the BAA.

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