

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: 2019 APPEAL

Below are some comments and questions you may hear from potential donors about the Appeal this year, along with responses to help address them. If at any time you prefer not to answer a question, please refer a donor to Timothy Sember or Dennis Walczyk at Catholic Charities at 716-218-1400, or at timothy.sember@ccwny.org or dc.walczyk@ccwny.org. We are happy to help.

Q: How can I designate my Appeal donation? How can I be assured it will go to where I designate?

A: Donors are able to select from the following options on their pledge cards or through an online donation:

- (1) Both Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith;
- (2) Catholic Charities only;
- (3) Fund for the Faith only.

We adhere to the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Code of Ethical Standards which ensures donors we will honor their gift designations. Both Catholic Charities and the Diocese are audited annually. Catholic Charities' financial information, including our audit report and I-990 can be found at ccwny.org/financial-information. Also, Catholic Charities is recognized as an Accredited Charity by the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York and is a four-star charity as rated by independent evaluator Charity Navigator. The Diocese makes its financial information public in the Western New York Catholic each year.

Q: How are funds used that are allocated to the Fund for the Faith?

A: The Fund for the Faith, previously called the Bishop's Fund for the Faith, supports ministries that benefit all parishes, including Campus and Hospital Ministries, the Diaconate program, Family Life, the Office of Cultural Diversity,

and Youth Leadership Development, among others. Funding decisions are based on current needs and determined by an allocations committee. Some of these ministries have no other sources of income beyond this Appeal and do not have the ability to fund-raise on their own despite the fact that many of these ministries benefit all parishes and parishioners.

Q: I didn't know a portion of Appeal donations were allocated to programs and ministries of the Diocese.

A: The Appeal has for many, many years supported the programs and services of Catholic Charities, and the programs and ministries of the Diocese through the Bishop's Fund for the Faith (now called Fund for the Faith). Catholic Charities receives the majority of funds. The Diocese's segment provides for vital ministries and missions, which in turn provide the faithful with pastoral care for various spiritual needs, leadership development and faith formation, as a few examples. Most dioceses across the country conduct a Bishop's Appeal or Archbishop's Appeal and then distribute funds to church programs or agencies, like Catholic Charities. Here in Buffalo, Catholic Charities has always led the Appeal with the involvement of the Bishop and the Diocese.

Q: Does any of the money raised go to fund legal fees or case settlements?

A: None of the money raised have been or will be used for any legal fees or case settlements.

Q: How are legal fees or case settlements funded?

A. Compensation to victims will come from the Diocese' self-insured liability fund and its investment fund, as well as the sale of Diocesan properties. All Appeal funds raised will be dedicated to funding the programs and services Catholic Charities provides to the most vulnerable populations in our communities,



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BUFFALO

FAQS (CONTINUED)

and to a number of programs and ministries through the Fund for the Faith.

Q: I am upset by Catholic Charities' foster care and adoption decision.

A: We certainly understand the concerns and sensitivities about this difficult decision made in light of the Catholic church's position on marriage and family. Church teaching was in direct conflict with State of New York regulations, which governed our adoption work. Every child who was in our foster care program has remained with their parents, in their homes, and their care was successfully transferred to another organization in early November. In addition, every employee who was impacted by this decision has secured other jobs, either with Catholic Charities or with another organization. This program was funded through government contracts and not by donations made to the Appeal.

Q: I do not want to give because of the recent sexual abuse scandal.

A: We are all greatly concerned about what has occurred. We believe that investing in works of charity and mercy is the foundation of rebuilding our Church in the image of Jesus. And, as the most comprehensive human service provider in Western New York, Catholic Charities needs support to continue providing programs and services to our most vulnerable neighbors. Catholic Charities also provides counseling to survivors of abuse. With our collective strength and support we can ensure that our community will still be able to turn to Catholic Charities for help. Please know that we are here with you and for you and are so grateful for your support.

Q: Help me understand the distinction between the Upon this Rock initiative and the Appeal.

A: Upon this Rock was a capital campaign conducted by the Diocese of Buffalo designed to immediately impact the parishes, as well as reshape the way our Church funds key ministries and programs for the future. One portion of Upon this Rock, \$10 million, was placed in an endowment fund to enhance the work of Catholic Charities. The principle or corpus of that fund is not accessible, rather the interest income is. The Appeal is the annual campaign conducted by Catholic Charities which helps sustain the work of the agency on an ongoing basis. The financial outcome of the Appeal supports the annual operating budget for Catholic Charities of Buffalo.