

Linking Parish Ministries with Diocesan Ministries

One of the most effective ways of presenting the diocesan church and the Idaho Catholic Appeal is to help parishioners understand the connections that exist between your parish ministries and diocesan ministries. Consider some of the following questions. Each one of these questions represents the work of a ministry or program supported by gifts to the Appeal. An individual parish alone could never fund all these programs or even a few of them on their own.

1. Your pastor or parochial vicar were assigned to your parish by the bishop, this is an obvious connection. The diocese funded his education and continues to do so. Has your pastor participated in a recent priest continuing education seminar or retreat?
2. Does your parish have a member who is currently in the seminary? The diocese is responsible to recruit, train and form seminarians who will be our future priests. Highlight any of these men if they are from your parish, or have served there during their formation.
3. Does your parish have a permanent deacon or a person/couple in training? Deacons are trained and supervised by the diocese. If you have either a deacon or an aspirant, consider highlighting him and his training and formation program (also known as Servant School).
4. Does your parish have a former pastor who is now retired? Update your parish on this person and his activities.
 - Diocese of Boise has 26 **retired priests** who have dedicated their lives in service to the Church of Idaho. Many of these are in their late 70's and 80's. The Diocese tries hard to attend to priests during their retirement years. A portion of the ICA, along with contributions by the parishes, goes into the Priest Retirement Fund each year to help fund their retirement.
 - The Diocese of Boise depends on the Idaho Catholic Appeal to pay the medical insurance premiums for **retired priests** along with a substantial amount of their medical care as they grow older. Just as medical costs continue to escalate across the country, the diocese is also challenged with meeting increasing medical costs, especially as more priests are reaching the retirement age of 70.
5. Does your parish have an RCIA and children's RE program? How many participate? Did you know the diocese provides ongoing education and training certification, retreats and support to your parish RE staff? How many have attended the fall conference?
6. Has your parish or school remodeled or added on to its worship/hall/educational space? The diocese offers the services of staff members with a great deal of knowledge in this area to aid in these undertakings.
7. Has anyone in your parish participated in the Servant School to help train lay ministers in your parish?
8. New this year, the Office of Marriage and Family Life will be offering healthy marriage preparation and on-going marriage enrichment resources to strengthen families.
9. Does your parish have a youth and/or young adult ministry program? Has your group attended a diocesan sponsored program, such as ICYC, Jr. High Catholic Camp, High school camps and retreats, young adult conference and monthly/regional gatherings?

10. Do you have a Catholic school? What services can your principal identify that the Office of Catholic Schools provided? Has your school been evaluated recently or had help with accreditation? How many have attended the Catholic Educators Conference (formerly Idaho Catholic Congress/Fall Conference)?
11. Are any of your members or their (grand)children involved with one of our Campus Ministry Student Centers at BSU, ISU, or U of I? These student centers serve a number of young people and receive support from the diocese.
12. Has your parish ever taken out a loan from the Diocesan Savings and Loan fund? Parishes have saved a lot of money from lower interest payments over the years because of this program.
13. Has your parish received a rebate from the Idaho Catholic Appeal? Describe what was done with the refunded monies.
14. Have members been assisted with the annulment process? Last year, the Tribunal/Canonical Affairs Office assisted more than 500 individuals with marriage cases. They also assist pastors and parishes with canonical affairs.
15. Has a parishioner or someone they know been assisted by Catholic Charities of Idaho? Last year, they served over 7,000 people.

This list is by no means comprehensive; instead, it is intended to present the diocese in a different way to your people. A clearer understanding of the diocese and how it relates to your home parish will make promoting the annual Idaho Catholic Appeal a little easier for you and your fellow parishioners. The ICA provides each of us with a ministry or program that supports our spiritual needs as Catholics.