
What the ADA Supports

The money raised through the Annual Diocesan Appeal helps financially assist the following ministries, programs and offices. Please visit www.dmdiocese.org/giving for more information. Parishes may use this information to help promote the ADA through pulpit talks or bulletin announcements.

Bishop's Office/Priests

- Funds travel to parishes for Confirmations and special Masses/meetings.
- Funds shortfall from the Priest Medical Fund for annual medical expenses.
- Provides retirement benefits for priests above the Priest Pension Fund.
- Provides service to assist priests born outside the United States with the various requirements of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Assists in the organization of important ad hoc diocesan events.
- Provides for record retention and important filings with the state of Iowa for parishes and schools.
- Funds staff support for ad hoc initiatives and committees, such as those planning for stewardship of the diocesan Pastoral Center, and retired priest benefits.

Catholic Charities

- Counsels hundreds of individuals and families.
- Provides expanded sexual abuse and domestic violence program in our diocese.
- Welcomes refugee families and assists them in finding shelter and work.
- Feeds and clothes thousands of individuals through the Family Emergency Center.
- Houses families experiencing homelessness and provides services to assist in transition to a self-sustaining situation.

Office of Catholic Schools

- Plans and facilitates faith formation programs for school faculty members.
- Supports the 16 schools by providing quality research-based best teaching practices through professional development, and individual school and classroom visits on a monthly basis.
- Serves 6,300 students in our Catholic Schools.
- Assists schools with state accreditation requirements.
- Helps schools obtain the educational services allowable from both the state and federal governments.
- Provides marketing and recruitment plans, suggestions, and recommendations for the schools collectively and individually.
- Assists pastors, administrators and boards with personnel and legal issues.
- Assists pastors and school boards with the selection of new administrators.
- Interprets new school legislation for the school administrators, pastors and boards.
- Assists schools in providing services for interpreters and translation for English Language Learner students.

- The Catholic Schools Office provides a multicultural liaison to assist new and current families to build relationships with our schools. The CSO supports the schools in managing translation needs, providing parent workshops, and supporting ELL teachers and their students.

Office of the Director of Administrative Services

- Assists priests born outside the United States with the various requirements of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Oversees Safe Environment Program, Archives, Development, Human Resources, Facilities/Physical Plant, and Administrative Services.

Office of Communications

- Supplements the cost of production for “The Catholic Mirror” newspaper.
- Provides the resources to produce monthly “In the Diocesan Loop” e-newsletter.
- Produces the Bishop’s weekly radio show, “Making it Personal with Bishop Joensen”.
- Maintains the diocesan website with up-to-date information.
- Updates diocesan social media accounts to build relationships and share news.
- Assists diocesan ministries, parishes and schools with crisis communication, marketing and other communication as needed.

Office of the Diaconate

- Offers comprehensive formation, support and continuing education for all Deacons and Diaconate candidates.

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Includes the ministries of: lay ecclesial ministry formation, catechetical services, adult faith formation, youth ministry, and young adult ministry.

- Assists in a systematic formation of lay ecclesial ministers (catechetical leaders, youth ministers, pastoral associates, etc.) which emphasize the whole person’s development (human, theological, pastoral, and spiritual) in a systematic way under the care of skilled directors and mentors.
- More than 9,000 children and teens are enrolled in parish faith formation programs.
- Provides curriculum, pastoral leadership, guidance, skill development, professional networking and opportunities for growth for catechetical leaders (directors of religious education and youth ministers).
- Provides evangelization opportunities for parishes.
- Assists parish communities in developing comprehensive youth ministry and a systematic process for high school Confirmation which evangelize high school youth to become missionary disciples.
- Develops comprehensive programming to evangelize young adults.
- Develops comprehensive programming to evangelize students on the college campuses throughout the Diocese of Des Moines. Campus Ministry is headquartered at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center in Des Moines.
- Organizes National Catholic Youth Conference Pilgrimage for youth in the Diocese.

- Plans and implements Diocesan Youth Rally.
- Helps parishes develop effective faith formation retreats.

Office of Finance

- Administers group insurance plans for all parishes and schools in the diocese, additional benefits, and a 403b Plan.
- Hosts quarterly Business Office Forums on both sides of the diocese. A full day forum is held annually with no charge to the parishes.
- Prepares accurate financial reports for the Diocesan Finance Council's review and approval which communicates the financial stability of the Diocese as a whole.
- Gives support and direction on a daily basis regarding financial matters to parish and school staff. This includes questions regarding software, government compliance, risk management, and accounting questions.
- Develops programs and documents aimed at helping parishes safeguard the assets that have been entrusted to them by their parishioners and to help them implement good business practices. This includes producing the Annual Financial Report, the Parish Resource Manual, and periodic newsletters.
- Staff travels to each parish to provide an on-site review of internal controls and meet with the parish finance council to review suggestions for improvements.
- Performs all accounting functions for Catholic Charities and Catholic Tuition Organization in addition to the Diocese of Des Moines.

Office of Hispanic Ministry

- Conducts leadership development program for Hispanic lay ministers.
- Supports Our Lady of the Americas cost of their associate pastor.
- Supports some costs for the Hispanic religious sisters ministering in the diocese.

Office of Human Resources

- Provides support to parishes and schools regarding human resource laws.
- Consults with parishes and schools on difficult employment matters.
- Provides training for the Just Practices of Compensation program to parishes.
- Provides benefits support for both active and retired priests.
- Provides training on important documentation regarding human resources.
- Manages benefits program for parish and school employees.
- Posts parish and school openings on Diocesan website.

Office of Marriage and Family Life

- Provides marriage preparation for over 400 engaged couples a year and ongoing support for married couples throughout the diocese.
- Helps sponsor NFP teacher training for instructors, and scholarships for engaged and married couples learning NFP.
- Trains new sponsor couples who will walk with our engaged and help them prepare for the sacrament of marriage.

- “Safe Haven Sundays”, weekends where families become educated on the harms of pornography, and equipped with resources for prevention and healing.
- Supports the regional ministry The Third Option, a program for couples facing challenges in their marriages.
- Shares the Church’s teaching on marriage and family with young people throughout the diocese at events for middle school and high school students, and young adults.

Office of Safe Environment

- Conducts quarterly audits to insure compliance with mandatory safe environment/Protecting God’s Children program.
- Performs background checks and records Virtus training for over 21,695 employees and volunteers in diocesan programs/parishes/schools.
- Provides guidance and support to parishes as they plan for expansion or major renovation projects within their facilities.
- Assists parishes in accessing professional resource persons who can be helpful in assessing local facility needs.
- Oversees the maintenance of all diocesan-owned facilities.

Office of Stewardship

- Supports parishes stewardship efforts with resources to communicate, manage and report special collections for Diocesan, national, and worldwide needs such as Seminarians, Catholic education, Catholic Charities, and emergency relief situations.
- Consults parishes regarding local fundraisers and stewardship efforts.
- Helps pastors make donor calls as requested.
- Monitors charitable giving laws and notifies parishes/schools of annual changes.
- Reviews and submits grants for parishes and schools as requested.
- Assists parishes with major and complex gifts.
- Establish and bolster Parish Solidarity Fund to support parishes when they have exhausted their efforts to fund projects within their local community.
- Coordinate diocesan-wide comprehensive campaigns.

Office of Technology

- Provides various types of support to parish and school staff in regard to their software programs & computer needs.
- Provides Help Desk services in answering software user questions.
- Hosts parish & school staff training sessions and ParishSoft User Group meetings.

Office of Tribunal

- Processes annulments for couples.

Office of Vocations

- Creates a culture of Vocations.
- Promotes priesthood and religious life.
- Provides tuition for seminarians.

- Oversees summer pastoral and education programs for seminarians.
- Travels to seminaries to show prospects the joy of seminary life.

Office of Worship

- Assists in supporting the Bishop in his role as chief liturgist for our diocese.
- Provides workshops for Holy Week planning.
- Assists parishes in developing liturgy committees.
- Provides support for diocesan liturgies such as Chrism Mass and Ordinations.
- Welcomes people to the Church through the Rite of Election. Each candidate receives a prayer card about baptism and their experience with the larger Church.
- Works with ICC lobbyist for nonpublic school legislation.