

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) of the Diocese of Spokane, formerly known as the Diocesan Development Fund, (DDF) has a history of 30 years. The original DDF was established in 1960 as a comprehensive fund raising effort to meet the administrative needs of the Diocese and the Diocesan obligation to the national and international collections normally taken up in parishes on a monthly basis.

Originally the DDF was administered as a quasi diocesan tax. Parishes were assessed or held responsible for a certain amount of revenue each year according to a formula which sought to equitably estimate the financial potential of the parish. A shortfall in the collection of the assessment was added to the parish's debt; the amount collected over and above the assessment was returned to the parish.

A "Stewardship Task Force" was established by Bishop Lawrence Welsh in 1986. After examining the financial condition of the diocese, the Task Force recommended a significant philosophical change in the format of the Annual Catholic Appeal. After consultation with the Diocesan Finance Council and Presbyteral Council, the Bishop adopted this recommendation whereby the assessment and rebate structure of the ACA was removed. In place of this structure, a goal is established for each parish. Contributions in excess of the parish goal are retained by the Diocese, but parishes not achieving the goal are not burdened with an increased debt.

A parish's goal for the ACA is calculated at approximately 20% of its regular income, which is the revenue collected through the Sunday offertory and any other income earned by the parish. Precise adjustments for each parish are devised on an annual basis by the Development Office.

The revenues of the ACA are allocated to the various offices of Diocesan Administration, ministries established by the Diocese on a Diocesan wide basis and those national and international collections which are not taken up individually in the Diocese. These collections include:

- American Board of Catholic Missions
- Catholic Relief Service
- Peter's Pence
- USCC - Catholic Communication Campaign
- Catholic University of America
- Commission for the Catholic Missions Among the Black People and the Indians
- Regional Commissariat of the Holy Land
- Society for the Propagation of the Faith
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association