CSA Commitment Weekend: November 4-5, 2017

The Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is a diocesan-wide campaign aimed at helping ministries far and beyond. For Santa Cruz Parish in Buda, it also hits home. Literally.

The parish has long been an avid supporter of Diocese of Austin’s CSA and no one knows this better than Parish Administrator Bob Johnson, who has successfully led Santa Cruz’ CSA efforts for many years and will again do so for the upcoming 2017-2018 campaign.

“Not only does Bob support his parish in all their efforts, he goes above and beyond to support the diocese as a whole,” said Lisa Rosenberger, the associate director of the Annual Appeal. “Under his direction, the parish reached their goal last year and they also reached their challenge goal.”

This year should be no different as Santa Cruz aims to raise between $60,000-$65,000 and Bob stands ready to make sure this happens.

“The teachings of our church say we become the Body of Christ in Baptism and the CSA is

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just one way we can support the bishop’s efforts and faithfully secure the numerous benefits we all garner from both small and large donations.”

Monetary goals are always important, as is the goal of increasing participation rates. Last year approximately twenty percent of Santa Cruz parishioners contributed to CSA and this year the goal is 100 percent. No amount is too little and no donation to the CSA goes unnoticed. Last year, more than 22,000 families from across the diocese donated to CSA.

Santa Cruz parishioners need look no further than their own campus to see the benefits of CSA. Under the leadership of Msgr. Joseph Deane for nine years, the parish witnessed multiple buildings and ministries ascend thanks to his foresight and dedication.

Bob credits Msgr. Deane’s vision with $10 million in construction efforts that include a new Parish Activity Center, a two-story Religious Education Building, Our Lady of San Juan Chapel, and a school. The CSA now gives the parish a chance to give back to Msgr. Deane and all retired priests.

“Because of Msgr. Deane, our kids now have state-of-the-art facilities in which to learn our faith and the CSA gives us a chance to make sure he and all retired priests are taken care of by all those of us who have benefitted from their time and talents,” Johnson said.

In a true example of things coming full circle, Santa Cruz recognizes that Msgr. Deane represents their glorious and successful past, while being able to host seminarians and transitional deacons serves as a reminder that CSA also supports their future. In 2016-2017, then-Deacon Brian Phillips served at Santa Cruz Parish prior to his priestly ordination. Father Phillips now is an associate pastor at nearby St. Anthony Parish in Kyle. This year Deacon Paul-Michael Piega is serving at the parish until his priestly ordination in June 2018.

“On a personal level, we love Msgr. Deane and we’re glad funds are allocated to make his retirement as comfortable as possible,” Johnson said. “It’s easy to support CSA when you think of the human connection it provides and it also makes us all better Catholics.”

The CSA also provides training and funding for leaders and volunteers, faith formation opportunities, strengthening families, Catholic schools support, pro-life efforts, multicultural and campus ministries, and a host of other services that enhance our faith. Through justice and charity, spirituality and worship, and education and formation efforts, the CSA assists all Catholics in ways that make the Body of Christ stronger and more supportive.
Retirement is a Blessing
By Rev. Jim Olnhausen

Retirement means freedom from countless meetings so that I may give of myself more fully to the sacramental and catechetical aspects of the sacred priesthood. I have freed myself from the administrative side of ministry, so that those in full-time ministry may have more time to devote themselves to the pastoral side of ministry.

Retirement doesn’t mean “no work.” It means less work with more time to prepare for it. Full-time parish priests are always struggling to put in as many hours as they can to prepare a homily that contains substance. Their homilies come from past and present experience, study and prayer. They do it under stress, now I do it with far less stress.

Retirement is such a wonderful opportunity to see our diocese and marvel at all the ministries enkindled by the Holy Spirit since Vatican II. I have always loved reading and studying. Even though I have vision problems, I continue to read and learn new ideas. I finished “Empire of the Summer Moon,” a gift to me from Father Mark Hamlet, a history of the rise and fall of the Comanche Nation, the fiercest of them all. I try to walk an hour 3 to 4 times a week because I know that exercise is the key to continued good health.

Retirement also means more time for prayer and service, privacy and relaxation. It is a wonderful companion to aging well. I stay busy on the weekends filling in for my fellow priests and I often have a funeral Mass at least once a week. Last spring, I gave a Lenten retreat in Spanish and hope to do more in the future.

Retirement means having more quiet time. Retirement is a blessing.

Because of your generosity, you provided hope, health care and a place to live for our 38 retired priests.

Fr. James R. Olnhausen has been a priest of the Diocese of Austin for 47 years. His pastoral assignments have included several parishes in the Diocese of Austin, as well as Pensacola, Florida, and Guadalajara, Mexico. He has served as the Dean of the Brenham/La Grange Deanery and as a member of the Presbyteral Council and College of Consultors. He retired in 2016 and now lives in Bastrop, Texas.
What’s next?

By Adrian Sanchez
Program Coordinator, Vocations

Having worked event after event in youth and young adult ministry for a number of years, that question was all too familiar. It caught me by total surprise when, two years ago, it came up in prayer and was followed with “How generous are you willing to be?”

It soon became evident that God was calling me to something new and different for my life: missionary work.

The search for, application to and interview with the ministry was easy. The fundraising gave me the most anxiety. After a rough couple of meetings, I found the more I was willing to simply come as I was and share with my potential donors how God was calling me to a new encounter with His love, the closer I came to my goal. Soon after, I had met my goal and I was off to the mission.

After an amazing experience with mission training, I found myself standing in rural Ohio, in the most beautiful church I had ever seen, listening to stories about farmers sacrificing nearly everything they had to build this church. That’s when it clicked: the most generous gift we can give is everything.

In fact, it’s our very selves. My family, friends, donors, mission supporters and even these farmers, sacrificed nearly everything they had to build this church. That’s when it clicked: the most generous gift we can give is everything.

As those two life-giving years as a missionary drew to a close, a new question came in prayer: What’s the most generous thing I can do with the life generously given to me? The answer is the blessing to serve as the Program Coordinator for the Vocations Office. To work with other men and women who are asking the same question in their lives. I get to walk with you as together we try to generously answer the question, “What’s next?”
Good News!

JOIN US FOR THE THIRD-ANNUAL GIVING DAY

#iGIVECATHOLIC #GIVINGTUESDAY

November 28, 2017

To raise awareness and support for the charitable, educational, and spiritual ministries of the Diocese of Austin, we are rallying the Catholic community by participating in the third annual #iGIVECATHOLIC GIVING DAY. We will celebrate this day of Catholic giving on November 28 also known as #GIVING TUESDAY, a global day devoted to giving.

Why are online giving days important for our parishes, schools, ministries and other nonprofits of the diocese? Research shows us that:

• Giving days are attractive to a broad range of parishioners, alumni and supporters—from individuals in their 20s through their 70s and beyond—and they are a great way to attract new and younger supporters, ensuring long-term sustainability.

• Compared to traditional campaigns, staff time required to launch online campaigns decreases by 50% to 80%.

We believe in the generosity of Catholics in our diocese. Working with our partner, our goal is to exceed last year’s amazing $1.8 million in charitable gifts and raise $3.5 million collectively—and $100,000 within our diocese—for those parishes, schools and nonprofits participating in the 24-hour giving day.

St. Thomas More Parish and Giving Day

After coming to a training at the diocesan headquarters, Kathy Mackowski and Andy DeHart, administrators at St. Thomas More Parish in Austin, were excited to present #iGIVECATHOLIC to their pastor, Father Isidore Ndagizimana. It was at this point that it became really important to rally their community. We told parishioners what we needed and what we were going to do with their support: “The St. Thomas More ‘Lifehouse’ served as a meeting place for the youth of the parish and it was in dire need of remodeling and restoring.”

Before

Current

St Thomas More Lifehouse

You could just look at it and know it needed help to provide for the kids in our community, and everyone saw this as an investment in our future. Because of the #iGIVECATHOLIC campaign, St. Thomas More raised $20,965 last year in 24 hours.
Guardian Angels
MEMORIAL – OCTOBER 2

A good steward, one definition says, is a person who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cultivates them wisely, shares them generously, and returns them with increase to the Lord. Only the first of those four verbs is passive; often our emphasis in stewardship is on the more active verbs—on what we do with the gifts we received. Today’s feast celebrates a gift which we can only receive with gratitude. “He has given his angels charge over [us] in all of our ways,” Scripture says. On the feast of the Guardian Angels, good stewards find in God’s loving providence yet another reason to give thanks. “Even though we are children and have a long, very long and dangerous way to go, with such protectors what have we to fear? They who keep us in all our ways cannot be overpowered or led astray, much less lead us astray. They are loyal, prudent, powerful. Why then are we afraid? We have only to follow them, stay close to them, and we shall dwell under the protection of God’s heaven.”

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