



2026 Diocesan Services Appeal Frequently Asked Questions For Parish Use – Pastors, Parish Staff, DSA Volunteers

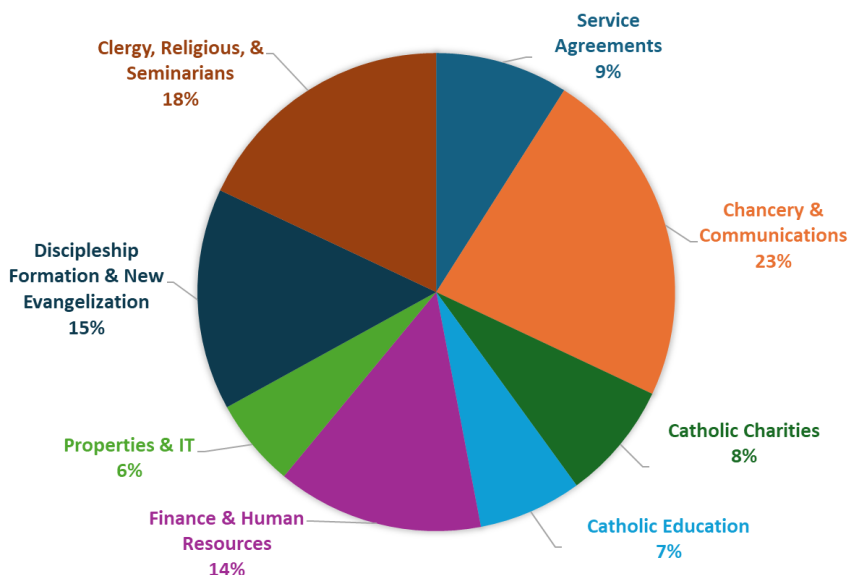
What is the purpose of the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA)?

The DSA is an annual appeal, meaning gifts are used to sustain the ongoing, day-to-day work of the Church in our diocese. Your DSA gifts are put to work right away in a multitude of ministries and activities. The dollars are not invested or reserved for future use.

How are DSA contributions used?

DSA contributions are restricted to fund the ministries, programs, and services that offer direct assistance to individuals and families and to our parishes, schools, and affiliated Catholic organizations. These include, but are not limited to:

- Adoption and Foster Care Services
- Campus Ministry
- Care for our Priests – Active and Retired
- Catechesis and Catechist Formation
- Catholic Charities Works of Mercy
- Catholic Schools
- Communications and Technology
- Consecrated Vocations
- Diaconate Formation and Support
- Discipleship and Lay Formation
- Evangelization Initiatives
- Faith-Based Counseling
- FAITH Magazine
- Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens
- Hispanic Ministries
- Hospital Ministry
- Human Resources and Legal Services
- Marriage and Family Programs
- Marriage Tribunal Services
- Natural Family Planning and Life Ministries
- Parish Financial Services
- Pregnancy Counseling and Services
- Priest Formation
- Professional Services for Parishes
- Property and Building Management
- Religious Education
- Restorative Justice/Prison Ministry
- Retreats and Conferences
- Sacramental Records and Archives
- Seminarian Education and Formation
- St. Francis Retreat Center
- Worship and Liturgical Resources
- Young Adult Vocational Formation
- Youth Formation



DSA contributions are the primary source of income for the Central Services Fund of the Diocese of Lansing. A report of the Central Services Fund expenses in fiscal year 2025 is provided to the left.

We just gave to the Stewardship for Saints and Scholars Campaign. Why is it important to contribute to DSA?

Thank you for contributing to the Stewardship for Saints and Scholars capital campaign to benefit Catholic education in the Diocese of Lansing. Your campaign contributions will help make Catholic schools across the Diocese of Lansing ever more on mission, affordable, and accessible while also striving to provide an authentically Catholic education to all families who desire it for their children. However, contributions to DSA are used for a different purpose.

What's the difference between DSA and Stewardship for Saints and Scholars gifts?

DSA gifts support the efforts of the many ongoing ministries across the diocese. Stewardship for Saints and Scholars gifts are a long-term investment in the future of Catholic schools and the education and formation of our children. Campaign gifts are used for purposes entirely different than the uses of DSA contributions. Both types of gifts are necessary and responsible uses of the financial gifts with which God has graced us as the stewards of His Holy Catholic Church.

Is my annual DSA gift really needed?

Yes. The annual support of the faithful across the diocese is critically important to fund our active, ongoing ministries. All gifts of any size will provide needed support for ministries that benefit your parish and the mission of the Catholic Church throughout the diocese.

How are the overall DSA goal and individual parish goals established?

The overall DSA goal is established by the Bishop and is related directly to the annual financial needs of the diocese. This year's goal is \$5.90 million. Following the determination of the overall DSA goal, parish goals are established through the use of a formula approved by the Diocese of Lansing Presbyteral Council. The 2026 formula is the result of work done by an ad-hoc committee comprised mainly of pastors, at the request of members of the presbyterate, and is based on a 95% weighting of each parish's 5-year average offertory, and a 5% weighting of each parish's estimated Total Household Income. A parish's estimated Total Household Income is the sum of the estimated Median Household Income of its registered households, based on the addresses of each registered household.

Will DSA funds be used for costs related to the sexual abuse of minors?

No. DSA funds have not been nor will be used for costs related to abuse. Nor are DSA funds diverted to help pay abuse costs in other dioceses.

Given past instances of embezzlement of parish funds, why should I give when I am skeptical of the financial oversight of my contributions?

The Diocese of Lansing's financial oversight processes brought financial abuses at the parish level to light. Diocesan finances are audited annually by an independent auditor and parish finances are professionally reviewed by the diocese's department of finance.

**Should there be any questions or need for clarification, please contact the
Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lansing**

Development Officer: Tom Haeussler

Email: thaeussler@catholicfoundationoflansing.org

Phone: 517-253-8742