

2020 Diocesan Services Appeal Frequently Asked Questions

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. Our contributions are put to work, right away in, in a multitude of ministries and activities. The dollars are not invested or reserved for future use.

How are DSA contributions used?

Contributions are used 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
- Catholic Charities Works of Mercy
- Catechesis and Catechist Formation
- Catholic Schools
- Communications
- Deaconate Formation and Support
- Diocesan Assemblies
- Evangelization Initiatives
- Faith-Based Counseling
- FAITH Magazine
- Financial Services and Audits
- Hispanic Ministries
- Hospital Ministry
- Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Formation
- Marriage and Family Programs
- Marriage Tribunal Services
- Natural Family Planning
- Pregnancy Counseling and Services
- Professional Services for Parishes
- Religious Education
- Restorative Justice/Jail Ministry
- Retreats and Conferences
- Sacramental Records and Archives
- Seminarian Education and Formation
- St. Francis Retreat Center
- Worship
- Young Adult Vocational Formation
- Youth Formation

DSA contributions are allocated only to the Central Services budget of the Diocese which provides for the good works of the Church. An annual independent audit of the diocese is completed and assures that DSA contributions are used for the purposes of the approved budget.

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.

What is the status of allegations of clergy sexual abuse in our diocese?

“The most recent incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy from the Diocese of Lansing occurred years ago, before the Charter [for the Protection of Children and

Young People] was adopted in 2002. All clergy members who have been found to have abused minors are either deceased or permanently removed from ministry.” – *Bishop Boyea plans to conduct external audit and publish names of clerics with credible allegations* – September 11, 2018 - <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/news/bishop-boyea-plans-conduct-external-audit-and-publish-names-clerics-credible-allegations>.

“We know of no one active in ministry in our diocese who has abused a child.” – *Diocese of Lansing welcomes Michigan Attorney General investigation* – September 21, 2018 - <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/news/diocese-lansing-welcomes-michigan-attorney-general-investigation>.

For more information on the clergy sexual abuse scandal, including statements from the Office of the Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing from 2003 – present, please visit the Diocese of Lansing website at <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/office-bishop/resources-and-response>.

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

Diocese of Lansing 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.

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.

Having contributed to the Witness to Hope Campaign. Why is it important to contribute to DSA?

Thank you for contributing to our first-ever diocese-wide capital campaign, Witness to Hope. It was a momentous effort to invest in the future of our Church. We anticipate that more than 50% of the funds raised will be returned to parishes for their selected projects. In addition, six endowments have been initiated at The Catholic Foundation to support education, seminarians, charities, and other vital purposes of the wider Church long into the future. However, contributions to DSA are used for a different purpose.

What is the difference in the use of DSA gifts and Witness to Hope gifts?

DSA gifts support current and ongoing efforts at our parishes, schools, and across the diocese. Witness to Hope gifts are a long term investment in the future of the church. 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.