



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL: FUTURE OF OUR FAITH II** ***MANY PARTS, ONE BODY*** **Appeal Manual**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **What is the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II?**

The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) is a combined campaign and fundraising effort with the parishes and ministries of the Church in New Hampshire.

#### **What ministries and needs will be included in the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal?**

The following will be funded by the NHCA:

- Catholic Education and Catholic Schools
- Seminarians, Deacons, and Vocations
- Priest Retirement
- *Parable* magazine
- Parish needs (Parish to Parish Support Fund and individual parish support)
- Missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry in N.H.
- Catholic University of America and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Catholic Charities NH (The NHCA does not fully fund CCNH and CCNH special in-pew collection held in the past at the parishes represented 30% of their overall funding. The NHCA will aim to fully cover what CCNH has traditionally raised from their in-pew appeal (\$1.2 million) in the years ahead).

Many of these needs and ministries were previously funded through second collections. These second collections have been eliminated or consolidated into the NHCA. Parishioners can still give to these causes and programs separately, though it does not count towards the overall parish goal.

#### **Does the money raised by the NHCA go to support the bishop?**

No. Although the proceeds from the NHCA are remitted to the Appeals Office at Diocese of Manchester, the funds raised will go towards imperative ministries that move our faith forward. These ministries benefit all Catholics and parishes throughout the Diocese of Manchester. No proceeds will be used to support the bishop or go to the bishop's office.

#### **Does the money raised by the NHCA pay for financial settlements?**

No. Funding for financial settlements has come from insurance policies, a specific non-restricted insurance fund, diocesan savings, and diocesan investment income. All funds raised from the NHCA will be used to support the ministries listed above.

#### **How much will it cost to run the Appeal?**

The Office of Development and Communications will make every effort to keep costs down in marketing and managing the NHCA. Good stewardship of donations is essential to any Catholic



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fundraising program. The first-year administrative costs were 10% which included first year set up costs and fixed costs. The intent of the Diocese is to keep the costs at 5% or lower in future years. Expenses will be accounted for in the publication of an annual report for the NHCA – this report will include an accounting of how all dollars raised were used. All parishioners will receive this report. The expenses include the cost of producing and mailing the informational materials for the Appeal as well as for the processing of all gifts to the NHCA.

### **Why should I give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal if I already give to my parish?**

Your participation helps the entire Church in New Hampshire where the needs are the greatest – recruiting new priests, evangelization, the vulnerable, and more. Your support makes these ministries possible that no one parish could support on its own. Your gift demonstrates your commitment to the greater Church. We are many parts in the Diocese of Manchester but one body in Christ with a common mission.

### **Does my parish have to support the NHCA?**

Yes. Each parish in the diocese has a set goal which represents the parish share of the total Appeal. A good faith effort is requested of all parishes. Additionally, individual parishes can benefit significantly by retaining any funds raised over their set goal; administering fewer second collections; and parishes will see a reduction in fees and administrative costs (assessments) paid to the Diocese.

### **Are all parishes in New Hampshire participating in the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal?**

After 41 parishes participating in the initial year of the Appeal in 2022, all 88 parishes will now be a part of the Appeal in 2023 and moving forward. No parishes will participate in the Catholic Charities NH special collection appeal as that collection is now part of the NHCA.

### **How much should I give?**

Charitable giving is a reflection of our Christian stewardship of treasure. Giving back to God, either through contributions to your parish, the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal, or other worthwhile charities, should require a sacrifice, one that recognizes God's generosity to us individually. Therefore, your gift is a personal decision between you and God and should be made after careful reflection. Please consider the dollars you have donated in the past to the six discontinued 2<sup>nd</sup> collections plus the Catholic Charities NH special collection and the *Parable* magazine drive to help you determine how much to give. The pledge and recurring gift option may make this amount feasible.

### **Should I make a pledge, recurring gift, or a one-time gift?**

Making a pledge or a recurring gift allows you to spread your gift over several months, which may make it easier for you to budget, and may also allow you to give a larger gift.



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### How Should I Give?

There are many ways that you can give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal.

- Donate online with credit/debit card.
- Pledge – submit your pledge (through the gift envelope, or online)
  - All check pledges will receive a monthly reminder.
- Recurring Gift – set up a monthly recurring gift (through the gift envelope, or online)
- Check – make checks payable to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal.
- Cash may be sent in using the gift envelope, but we encourage check or credit card.
- Donate stock – call (603) 663-0136 for broker instructions.
- Donate through your IRA – contact your IRA administrator and have your gift sent directly to the Office of Development and Communications at 153 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03104 – include your name, and the parish you want the gift credit to go towards.

### Can parishioners donate using their current online giving platform used for parish offertories?

Yes. However, the parish must complete the following items:

1. The parish must submit in writing their intent to add the NHCA as an option to their online giving site via email to [nhca@rcbm.org](mailto:nhca@rcbm.org). Please include your parish name, pastor name, online giving platform (i.e., VANCO, OSV, etc.) and a statement attesting that the parish acknowledges it is responsible for acknowledging all gifts received for the NHCA (for tax purposes).
2. Each week, the parish must submit a giving report to [nhca@rcbm.org](mailto:nhca@rcbm.org). This giving report must be in an Excel spreadsheet with the following fields:
  - Parishioner/Donor Name
  - Parishioner/Donor Mailing Address
  - Parishioner/Donor E-mail Address
  - Date of Gift
  - Amount of Gift
  - Recurring (Y/N) and frequency
3. The parish is obligated to send all tax letters/acknowledgement of gifts. Please send a *sample* acknowledgement letter (either the automatically generated acknowledgement by your online giving service provider or one generated by the parish to [nhca@rcbm.org](mailto:nhca@rcbm.org)). The Diocese does not need copies of each donor/parishioner acknowledgement letter, just one sample per parish.
4. The parish shall remit online donations weekly to the Diocese for the month of May and then monthly or as needed through March. Please ensure that for each check remitted that there is a corresponding Excel donor report (see #2 above).



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However, parishes are strongly encouraged to link to the Diocesan giving page at <https://www.catholicnh.org/nhca>. The gift page will include a drop down that will list all parishes participating in the NHCA so that each parish will be credited appropriately.

A donation link for the NHCA will be provided to all parishes that can be placed on their websites to direct parishioners for online giving.

### **How are the goals for each parish determined?**

The parish NHCA goal is calculated as 10% of the parish average assessable income over the last three fiscal years. Due to Covid concerns, we excluded fiscal year 2020 from the calculation. This year's calculation was 10% of the average assessable income for fiscal years 2022, 2021, and 2019. The goal formula will be reviewed after the 2023 appeal cycle.

### **If the parish goal is exceeded, does the parish get to keep the amount raised over the goal?**

Yes. The NHCA will allow parishes to keep 100% of their revenue over their set goal for the first three years of the appeal. In June 2024, the Diocese will assess whether or not this has been successful or may need adjustments.

### **What happens if a parish does not make their goal?**

If a parish does not reach its goal, it will be assessed (billed) the remainder. An abatement program is available for parishes who may qualify (and the difference will not be assessed).

### **What changes are being made to the collection schedule in 2023?**

A total of six collections are removed from the 2023 collection schedule so parishes are requested to NOT include these collections in their parish envelope orders for 2023. An updated collection schedule can be found here (under "Links"): <https://www.catholicnh.org/about/who-we-are/administration/finance/>.

- Seminarian Fund
- Catholic education (now optional for parishes who need it)
- Parish to Parish Support Fund
- NH Missionaries Abroad and Migrant & Refugee Ministry in NH
- Catholic University of America and USCCB
- NH Priest Retirement Fund