

Why does the Diocese need your help?

Our Bishop guides this Diocese in its efforts to spread the Word of God both within and outside the Catholic community. Even if one of the ministries does not seem to apply to your life, it is vital to someone else's.



Priests are essential for offering the Mass, confession of sins, counseling and spiritual guidance, marriage preparation, funerals, community leadership, youth education and a wide array of other activities. Even in populous areas priests are too few to serve all the needs presented.

Our small rural parishes have limited access to priests who must travel extensively covering vast regions just to provide Sunday Mass to every parish. Without a continuing call for seminarians and the support and education of those who have been called, this scarcity will deepen.



Our families face a daily crisis dealing with our secular society's insistent barrage of immorality. Consistent religious education and clear examples can help our children make good life choices. Families with difficulties need good counseling and support.



Our Church must stand firm in Her unchanging respect for life. Our community needs to see our determination to protect those created in the image of God who are unable to defend themselves.



God calls into the Church many who have been casting about searching for God. And now that they've found the Truth and the Way, they must shed their damaging baggage to follow a new life in Christ. Often this involves divorces and other impediments to full Catholic communion. Without the Marriage Tribunal to resolve these issues, their cause is hopeless.



Our youth are tossed into a world that seems to be governed by immoral might. A firm foundation of faith and trust and establishing an unshakable moral code is a family's challenge. Who can they call on for assistance and support?



What does your Diocese do?

Special Apostolates

- **Pastoral & Rural Ministry** - Provide assistance to parishes too small to fulfill their own needs.
- **Marriage Tribunal** - Strengthen the bond of marriage and provide annulments without fees to those who have not fulfilled the bond.
- **Divine Worship** - Creating powerful liturgies.
- **Hispanic Ministry** - Promote the Catholic faith and encourage community involvement to create a stronger Catholic presence in our community.
- **Future Church Sites** - Respond to changes within the Diocese by building new parishes and churches.
- **Diocesan History & Archives** - Maintain vital records such as baptisms, confirmations and marriage for all Catholics.
- **Business Office** - Efficiently administer all Diocesan needs.
- **Ministry to Prisoners** - Prevent those locked away from being abandoned and left without hope.
- **Pro-Life Activities** - Proclaim a firm support for all stages of life.
- **Diocesan Development** - Create a more involved, proactive and holy Diocese to benefit the entire region.

Serving Clergy & Religious

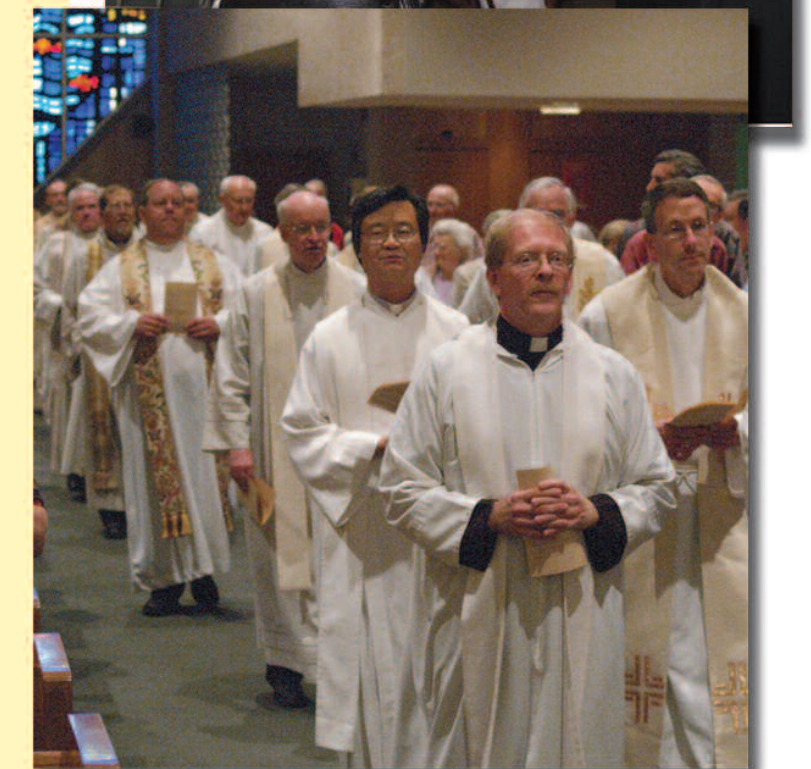
- **Priestly & Religious Vocations** - Support religious life and encourage vocations.
- **Clergy Education & Retreats** - Keep our clergy fresh and prepared for the challenges they all face in their daily work.
- **Permanent Diaconate** - Formation of aspirants to the permanent diaconate, which provides essential support in our parishes.
- **Diocesan Pastoral Council** - Provides essential leadership for the enrichment of the Diocese.

Serving Families, Children & Youth

- **Family Life Ministry** - Providing services and seminars for family assistance plus numerous outlets to individual support.
- **Religious Formation** - Directs the religious education of our youth and creates consistent instructor formation and guidance.
- **Subsidies to Schools** - Maintains the outstanding Catholic School system in the face of rising costs.
- **Youth Ministry** - Offers direction and age-specific opportunities for our young people to express their joy, community, faith and service
- **University Campus Ministries** - Creates strong communities for our young adults as they live away from home influence for the first time.
- **Young Adult Ministry** - Social, charitable and religious events give young adults opportunities to affect their community in a positive way.

Continuing Education & Formation

- **Pastoral Studies Institute** - Educational opportunities made available to all our Catholic adults, both for college credit and for faith enrichment.
- **Diocesan Library** - Learning more about our faith is simplified by having a complete central library system.
- **Eastern Oklahoma Catholic** - Current Catholic events locally and world-wide are available to every household.
- **Stewardship Education** - Enrich your life by understanding what God asks of you and finding ways to fulfill that request.



How does all this affect you?

God calls on those who have much to give, reflecting the generosity lavished upon their lives. Those who struggle to manage are called to give little, as enduring the challenges of their lives already fulfills God's plan. But even those with little must contribute to the Diocesan Development Fund which is vital to the operation of our Diocese. This does not supplant the other responsibilities in our community. Balance your gifts to the Diocese with support of your individual parish and with charitable support to Catholic Charities. Be sure to include your talents and time to what you give to God. The rewards are tremendous!