



**Thank You!**  
***Your Gifts Make a Direct Impact on Those  
in Need!***



The cost of living has increased on Long Island and throughout the nation causing many to find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. While we all want to donate with a generous hand, it's important to know exactly where our dollars go and who they are helping.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal funds many ministries in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Your donated dollars go directly toward funding ministries such as Campus Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, Catholic Charities, Faith Formation, Respect Life, Vocations, and Multi-Cultural Diversity.

But where and how you may ask is this money used?

**A Place To Worship**

Campus Ministry connects students with a Catholic community on campus, so their faith thrives in college and beyond. At one of the campuses on Long Island, students didn't have a sacred place to pray so they worked together with our Office of Campus Ministry to convert a storage closet into a chapel.

**Growing Faith**

The CMA funds Faith Formation programs that include baptismal, pre-Cana, and RCIA programs. By providing leadership training, guidance, evaluation,

resources, and programming, The Office of Faith Formation strives to support our pastors, clergy, catechetical lay leaders, and volunteers in their efforts to be joyful, hopeful witnesses to the Gospel and agents of evangelization.

### **Supporting our Seminarians**

Your gift of \$1,000 may help support the formation of our Seminarians. Ordained in 2014, Fr. Joseph Scolaro answered the call to serve when he began the program of priestly formation at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in 2010. "I know firsthand how important the Catholic Ministries Appeal is. It helped to support my formation and gave me the freedom to really focus on my studies. Now as a Priest in the Diocese, I feel blessed that God has chosen me to make the Body and Blood of Christ present on the altar and to bring that gift to the people, bring God to the people – the same people who helped to bring me to this point by their support." -Father Scolaro

### **Healing After Loss**

Project Rachel is a dedicated network of specially trained and compassionate caregivers who are ready to offer support to those who have experienced the pain of abortion loss. With a deep understanding of the emotional and spiritual turmoil that individuals may go through, this project provides a safe and non-judgmental space where healing and restoration can begin. Their commitment to helping those in need is a testament to the power of empathy and understanding the process of recovery. "They couldn't have been more kind or loving. Thanks to Project Rachel, I am me again. I know now that God was there, all along, offering His love." -anonymous

### **Paying Forward**

"My support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal is based on one philosophy: Paying Forward. While growing up, my mom always taught us that if God has been good to us, we should share our blessings with others. The Catholic Ministries Appeal reminds us that when the Lord was on earth, He fed the hungry. And we feed the hungry in so many ways. We not only provide for their basic needs, but we also provide for their spiritual needs. The Catholic Ministries Appeal responds to so many needs on Long Island and if it weren't there, so many people would be without basic needs." -Marcy



# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

by Tanner Zalud

We hope that you are enjoying your summer! This month we have some tips for helping you to continue to build a strong stewardship foundation in your life. As we go on vacation and to parties and BBQ's, do not let those be excuses for becoming lax in our faith.

***We hope the pillars below will help you to continue to keep the Faith at the center of your life.***

***Pillars of Formation and Prayer:*** find time this month (especially if you are off from work) to add an extra daily Mass to your schedule. If that is not possible, perhaps you can find the time to add an extra daily devotion in your life—like praying the Rosary or a novena. Also, remember that August 15<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation, so be sure to make it to Mass.

***Pillars of Service and Hospitality:*** think of others this month. While summer may be the time for some to take time off from work, go on vacation and relax - there are still many who suffer with food insecurity and other issues that prevent them from enjoying the summer months.

Be sure to pray for others and give gifts and donations to those in need. ***The Catholic Ministries Appeal is a great way to give a gift to help others.***

Enjoy the rest of the summer! And remember to keep your Faith at the center!

## YEAR END TAX SAVING TIPS FOR YOUR IRA

by Mark Henry



Every year parishioners pay too much in taxes without realizing that they did not need to overpay. For the financially savvy, tax planning with retirement accounts like IRAs and 401(k)s can enable them to support charities like the Church with tax-wise giving strategies.

For many people, a retirement account like an IRA or 401(k) may be the most significant source of assets accumulated in their lifetime.

Others may find that, due to their other resources and investments, they are not in need of all the funds accumulated in their retirement accounts. For those who wish to give to the Church, a natural question is whether they can donate retirement assets—and if there are any tax advantages for doing so.

There are a couple of options for donating retirement assets. One way is to donate during your lifetime. In order to donate retirement plan assets during your lifetime you would need to take a distribution from the retirement account, include the distribution in your income for that year, account for any taxes associated with the distribution, and then contribute cash to the charity—with one exception. People who are age 70 ½ or older can contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a charity and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution. This is known as a *qualified charitable distribution*. It is limited to IRAs, and there are other exclusions and considerations as well.

Another way to donate all or a portion of your retirement asset is through your estate plan. There can be significant tax advantages to donating retirement assets to charity as part of an estate plan. When done properly, charitable donations of retirement assets can minimize the amount of income taxes imposed on both your individual heirs and your estate.

Give yourself a present in the New Year by reducing your taxes now.

With simple strategies, you can reduce your taxes and finish the tax year by helping the Church. You worked hard for what you have. Don't give it away in taxes without knowing all the possibilities for reducing the tax bite.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre has tools available to you for free and with no obligation. We would be happy to provide you or your advisor with information that can help you reduce your taxes, achieve your financial goals while helping the Church.

For more information on tax-wise planned gifts, contact Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at [bkilarjian@drvc.org](mailto:bkilarjian@drvc.org)

**This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.**

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