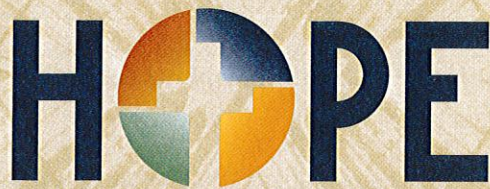


Witness to



The Catholic Diocese of Lansing

Frequently Asked Questions

To Strengthen Our Parish and Our Diocese

What is the goal of the *Witness to Hope* campaign?

The \$65 million diocesan-wide *Witness to Hope* campaign will fund a diverse balance of critical pastoral and financial needs. Each parish will have its own goal and fund its own priority projects as it determines. Parishioners will be invited to pledge their faithful generosity over as many as five years.

Why is the diocese conducting the campaign at this point?

Witness to Hope is a continuation of Bishop Boyea's pastoral letter *Go Announce the Gospel of Jesus Christ*. This campaign will advance the ability of our parishes, as well as our diocese, to fulfill the shared mission given to us by Jesus. The impact of this generous support will be felt in parishes and throughout the diocese for years to come. This support will provide us financial backing to increase our evangelization efforts, provide a welcoming home for all who seek the faith, and ensure a continued sound financial base for future members of the faith to build upon.

What share of funds do parishes receive?

Each parish has a base goal equal to its annual offertory. Parishes receive 35% of this amount, with the diocese receiving 65%. Parishes then receive 65% of the funds from 100% to 120% of goal. Parishes then receive 100% of all funds in excess of 120% of goal.

Will funds for the *Witness to Hope* campaign reduce offertory support for the parish?

In presenting the campaign, it will be important to emphasize that all gifts to *Witness to Hope* should not reduce other giving commitments to the Church, but should be extraordinary generosity made freely and faithfully to meet the extraordinary challenges and opportunities presented through the campaign. Over the long term, this historic, unprecedented campaign will build the capacity of parishes to realize their mission potential.

Will we be conducting the Diocesan Support Appeal as well as *Witness to Hope*?

There will NOT be a Diocesan Support Appeal conducted in 2017.

How was the parish case established?

Each parish, through the leadership of its pastor and councils, determines what its parish share will fund. Father and the councils agreed that we must increase our evangelization efforts, and offer continued opportunities for individuals to grow within the ministries where they serve.

How long is the pledge period, and when will I receive my reminders?

Pledges can be made over as many as 5 years, and parishioners may choose the beginning month and whether to receive monthly, quarterly, or annual reminders. Each parishioner also will select when they want to begin making their payments to best fit their personal financial situation.

How do I learn more?

There will be a series of bulletin inserts to provide more information about the campaign. Also you are encouraged to visit www.witnesstohope.net.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a good-faith promise that offers you a way to be generous over a period of time. Pledges are not legally binding.

When will I receive reminders to make payments on my pledge?

Unless you indicate that you would like a later start date on your pledge card, you will begin receiving reminders a few weeks after you make your pledge. You can choose whether to receive those reminders on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis.

Is it possible to set up automatic payments for my pledge?

Yes, some donors set up automatic bank draft or credit card payments. Some also send checks or transfer stock.

To whom should checks be made?

Checks should be made payable to "Witness to Hope."

I can't give that much. How can I help?

Many people often start with thinking there is no way to help. Here are some examples of small ways people can make adjustments to permit a generous gift.

Monthly Pledge	My Sacrifice Equals	Total 5-Year Pledge
\$167	\$5.56 per day take out lunch	\$10,000
\$83	\$2.78 per day premium coffee	\$5,000
\$50	\$1.67 per day large soda	\$3,000
\$25	83¢ per day lottery ticket = \$1	\$1,500