

ONE BODY IN CHRIST

INSPIRED, COMPASSIONATE, UNITED



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

DIOCESE of RALEIGH

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BAA Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You call us as one body in Christ—many hearts, many hands, united in Your love.

As we begin the Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2026, pour out Your Spirit upon our Diocese of Raleigh.

Renew in us the desire to serve with joy, to give with gratitude, and to love without measure.

May our efforts strengthen the mission of Your Church—to form disciples, educate hearts and minds, and bring hope to those who long for Your presence.

Remind us that every act of generosity builds up the Body of Christ and extends the reach of Your mercy.

Make us faithful stewards of the gifts You have given, so that through our unity and sacrifice.

Your light may shine ever brighter in Eastern North Carolina.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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What is the BAA?

The Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) is the Diocese of Raleigh's primary annual fundraising effort, uniting every parish in a shared mission to strengthen our Church's pastoral, educational, and charitable ministries. Through the generosity of parishioners across the diocese, the BAA provides essential funding for vocations and seminarian formation, Catholic Charities outreach, multicultural and catechetical programs, campus ministry, and support for parishes and schools of every size. Its impact is both practical and deeply spiritual: the BAA equips our diocesan community to serve those in need, accompany the faithful at every stage of life, and build a vibrant, growing Church rooted in hope and discipleship.

Where does the money raised from the BAA go?

28 %	Christian Formation and Education
25 %	Catholic Charities
21 %	Parish Support and Ministry Services
16 %	Seminarians & Vocations
10 %	Catholic Communication

What is the mission of the Bishop's Annual Appeal?

The mission of the Bishop's Annual Appeal is to empower the faithful to live out the Gospel by supporting the Church's efforts to evangelize, serve, and educate. Through your generosity, we proclaim Christ's message of hope and love, strengthen communities in need, and form the next generation of disciples. By opening our hearts and sharing our blessings, we ensure that the light of faith shines brightly in our parishes, schools, and outreach ministries, transforming lives and bringing the healing presence of Christ to all.

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What happens if my parish exceeds its BAA goal?

When your parish exceeds its BAA Goal, 40% will be rebated directly back to your parish (in the form of a check mailed to the parish) in February of the following year.

Ways To Give:

- **One-Time Gift** – Singular withdrawal. (*Donation processed same day*)
- **Sustainer/Recurring Gift** – Ongoing monthly withdrawal with no end date; continues through each annual campaign. (*Withdrawn on your selected date*)
- **Make a Pledge** – Commitment of a total donation over predetermined monthly installments in the current campaign year. (*Withdrawn on the 1st of the month*)
- **Pledge Payment** – Single payment on an existing pledge. (*Donation processed same day*)
- **Stock Donation, QCD, Donor Advised Fund**

What is a Sustainer?

If a donor sets up a recurring monthly gift with no end date, the donor will be considered a "Sustainer." The donor will receive a "Sustainer Prayer Card" for special recognition of their unwavering generosity. A sustainer's recurring gift will continue to each campaign year unless a change or cancellation is requested by the donor. The donor can request a change or termination of their recurring gift by emailing giving.support@raldioc.org or calling 984.900.3192.



Local Parish Capital Campaigns and Guaranteed Goals

If a parish is conducting a capital campaign for which pledges can be paid over a period of months or years, **it must guarantee the Bishop's Annual Appeal goal** for each year of the active solicitation plus the year following the conclusion of active solicitation.

There are two options for fulfilling the guaranteed goal:

1. **Conduct the Bishop's Annual Appeal as usual along with all other parishes.**

This is strongly recommended. The parish can raise as much as it can toward its Bishop's Annual Appeal goal. There may be numerous parishioners who are willing to support both asks. This also maintains annual education efforts about the services provided by the Bishop's Annual Appeal ministries.

2. **Incorporate the Bishop's Annual Appeal goal and message into your capital campaign appeal. This option can only be chosen for the first year of the appeal.**

It is important to communicate to all parishioners that part of the funds from a local capital campaign appeal will go to support the parish's Bishop's Annual Appeal goal. Thus, the parish needs to include the appeal information in its case material.

In either option above, ***all parishes with a guaranteed appeal goal due to a capital campaign will be invoiced the amount of the parish goal at the conclusion of the active solicitation period of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*** The invoice is payable upon receipt.

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Role of Pastoral Leader

The success of the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal depends greatly on the committed, visible, and faith-filled leadership of each Pastor, Pastoral Administrator, and BAA volunteer. When parish leaders actively support the Appeal, they inspire their communities to respond with generosity, trust, and a shared sense of mission. Parishioners consistently rise to the level of sacrifice invited by the example and encouragement of their spiritual leaders.

Leadership Responsibilities:

➤ **Select BAA Leadership Team & Volunteers**

Appoint parish BAA coordinators and volunteers and share their contact information with sarah.macey@raldioc.org.

➤ **Equip and Guide Your Team**

Ensure all volunteers understand how to use BAA materials and resources; provide ongoing direction, encouragement, and oversight.

➤ **Model Strong, Positive Leadership**

Communicate the importance of the Appeal with clarity and enthusiasm, helping parishioners see the mission and impact behind their participation.

➤ **Encourage Full Parish Engagement**

Work with your team to plan effective outreach and follow-up so every household has the opportunity to participate in the 2026 Appeal. Increased participation is a goal for 2026!

➤ **Connect the BAA to Parish Life**

Regularly highlight how BAA-funded ministries directly support your parish, neighboring communities, and the mission of the Diocese in Eastern North Carolina.

➤ **Steward your Parishioners**

You will receive a weekly report of your donors. Thank them, stand in the atrium and welcome them, have coffee with them, write them a quick note or email

➤ **Reach Out for Support When Needed**

Contact Sarah Macey or the Appeals Support Team with questions or for assistance
Sarah.Macey@raldioc.org Giving.Support@raldioc.org



Role of BAA Volunteers

Active, mission-driven lay leaders are essential to the success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. BAA volunteers serve as the bridge between the diocesan mission and the parish community—offering time, energy, and leadership to help ensure a fruitful and inspiring Appeal.

Responsibilities:

- **Collaborate with the Pastor or Pastoral Administrator** to identify, plan, and implement the most effective strategies for inviting parishioner participation and support.
- **Serve as a positive ambassador for the Appeal**, fostering a spirit of generosity, confidence, and enthusiasm within the parish. Including speaking at masses if you feel comfortable. It is always great to hear a
- **Ensure accurate and timely completion of the BAA Parish Tracking Form**, reviewing all entries and maintaining records within the parish.
- **Gather and report weekly updates** on parish giving progress to help guide planning and communication to parish and Pastor.
- **Monitor your parish's BAA performance using Blackbaud Raiser's Edge NXT**, ensuring real-time understanding of participation and gift totals.
- **Communicate the impact of the Bishop's Annual Appeal**, helping parishioners understand how funded ministries directly support the needs of the parish, the community, and the wider Church.
- **Identify donors** for Pastor cultivation, stewardship and relationships as gifts come in.

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Important Dates Annual Appeal

January 12,13,14	BAA Open Office Hours online video chat
January 13	Materials arrive at parishes week of 1/13
January 20	1st BAA letter with brochure arrives at homes
Feb-Mar (TBD by parish)	Commitment Weekend 1 & 2
March 17	2nd BAA letter arrives at homes
May 18	3rd BAA letter arrives at homes

BAA Commitment Weekends

1. Location & Setup

Where to Place Gift Stations

- Set up Gift Stations in the **Vestibule/Narthex/Cornerstone**.
- Use **clearly marked baskets** for dropping off gifts.
- **Signage:** "BAA Gift Station" or put the poster next to it.

2. Two Weeks Before Gift Station Weekend

Pastor/Pastoral Administrator Announcement

- Make a verbal announcement at all Masses:
 - Inform parishioners that **BAA Gift Stations** will be available soon.

3. One Week Before Gift Stations Are Used

Bulletin Message #1

- Print a bulletin notice reminding parishioners of the upcoming Gift Station weekend.

4. During Commitment Weekends

Bulletin Message #2

- Include a second bulletin message during BAA weekends.
- Encourage **PARTICIPATION**.

5. Host Two Commitment Weekends

- Parishes are encouraged to host **two weekends** to maximize parishioner participation.
- Parishes may choose their own dates in **February**.

6. Use Gift Stations for at Least Two Consecutive Weeks

- Keep the Gift Stations available for a **minimum of two weekends** to allow all parishioners time to participate.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to tell parishioners to mark that their gift is going to YOUR parish. Use the drop-down menu online or indicate it on their checks.

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Donation Process

Once you have conducted the in-pew solicitation process at your parish, processing those financial donations in a specific way is paramount. ***To keep donations secure you must keep all transactions and cash counting in the parish office.*** Please read carefully and follow the procedures below. If at any time you have questions or are uncertain about how to process a donation, please contact:

giving.support@raldioc.org

984.900.3192

Basic Processing Steps

1. Open every envelope (even if sealed).
2. Look up the donor in your parish data management software.
3. Write the donor's diocesan constituent ID number (CID#) in the designated area on the commitment card.
4. ***Please DO NOT do the following in the CID field on the commitment card:***
 - a. ***Write your parish number and/or name in this area.*** Your parish number and the donor's CID number are not the same.
 - b. ***Use CID#s that are prefaced with an asterisk* in your parish data management system.*** They are invalid and cause gifts to be credited to the wrong donor.
 - c. ***Write the parishioner's envelope number in the Diocesan CID# field.***
5. ***If a CID# is not found, submit without a number.*** Development team will assign a CID# when processing the donation if full name and address information are provided.
6. Enter the donation information on your BAA Parish Tracking Form. ***This tracking form remains at the parish. Do not send it to the lockbox.*** This is for parish use only to keep track of their donations.
7. Follow the instructions in the section below depending on the gift type.

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8. Return the commitment card to the original envelope before moving on to the next gift.

Gift Types

Personal Check - CID# should also be written on the personal check and returned to the original envelope with the commitment card.

Cash Gifts - with Identifiable Donor Information

- Cash MUST be converted to a parish check. **DO NOT SEND CASH** to the lockbox.
- Convert cash to one parish check and mail it with the commitment cards that are associated with that cash. (*Recommend sending FedEx, UPS, USPS priority for tracking purposes*)
- Please leave the memo line of the parish check blank. ***Limit 25 commitment cards per parish check***
- Commitment cards and associated parish check MUST be kept together. ***IMPORTANT: The total amount of the cash collected MUST equal the amount of the parish check.** If it does not balance, the transaction will be rerouted to the diocesan Development department resulting in a delay in processing.

Loose/Anonymous Cash - (Cash with no commitment card or unidentifiable donor information)

- Combine all unaccompanied/unidentifiable cash together as if it were received with no commitment card. Convert cash to parish check.
- Complete a commitment card listing "Anonymous Cash Gift" in the name field.
- Include Parish Name and Parish City on the commitment card.
- ***IMPORTANT: Do not include unaccompanied anonymous cash in the same parish check with cash gifts that are received with identifiable donor commitment cards.** Separate parish checks should be written for each of these scenarios.

Credit Card - Parishioners must go online to make a credit card donation. givetobaa.org

Pledge - Parishioners must go online to make a pledge. givetobaa.org

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***IMPORTANT:** There may be an occasional one-off BAA donation that comes into the parish office either through the regular collection or as a walk-in during the week. If this occurs, follow the steps above based on the applicable scenario.

Final Steps

1. Verify that all donations have been entered on the BAA Parish Tracking Form.
2. Please remember to save your document.
This is for parish auditing and donation tracking. The form remains at the parish. Do not send it to the lockbox.
3. Close the envelope, seal it and mail it out. ***USPS Priority, FedEx, UPS mail comes with tracking capabilities; please be sure to save and document your tracking number.**

DOR Bishop's Annual Appeal

PO Box 96885

CHARLOTTE NC 28296-6885

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Helpful Tips for Donation Processing:

Please utilize only current diocesan BAA materials. If our bank receives anything else, they will not process it. Instead, the bank returns all the materials - greatly delaying the parish's campaign, data updates, and processing of payments.

Paper clips, staples, and tape cannot be used when processing donations because they obstruct the machines and removing them costs valuable processing time. Rubber bands or separate envelopes are an option.

To keep donations secure you must keep all transactions and cash counting in the parish office.

Please remember to keep your donation tracking form at the parish (this is for your records and auditing purposes) and do not send it to the lockbox. This can cause confusion and delays in processing.

Online Giving

Please encourage online giving as the foremost way to give to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Our main giving page is givetobaa.org. Your parish should link back to the Bishop's Annual Appeal main giving page on your parish website. This is the most efficient and organized way to manage BAA donations.

In order to mitigate errors and delays, please refrain from using your parish online giving (third-party online giving services) to collect BAA donations and link directly to the diocesan BAA online giving pages: givetobaa.org

Stock Transfer

Download stock form [here](#).

BAA Parish Reporting with Blackbaud Raiser's Edge NXT

It is strongly recommended that your parish obtain access to RE NXT for parish reporting; please contact Data Operations via email to the ticket system at DataOps.Support@raldioc.org requesting account setup and questions.

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Pulpit Announcements

Pulpit Announcement #1

Many Parts, One Mission: Your “Yes” Matters!

This weekend we begin the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal—an opportunity for each of us to respond as **one Body in Christ**. In a world where so many are searching for hope, our Catholic community in Eastern North Carolina is called to be a light.

This year, we're focusing on **participation**. Whether your gift is small or large, your yes matters. When we come together, many parts, offering what we can. We strengthen ministries that feed the hungry, form our young people, accompany the vulnerable, and bring Christ's presence to places it's needed most.

Please take a moment to pray about your contribution. Together, we can make a profound difference.

Please consider joining our Diocese this weekend with a gift and help us transform lives .

Pulpit Announcement #2

Your Yes Makes Hope Possible

The Bishop's Annual Appeal invites each of us to say “yes” to something bigger than ourselves—to offer a gift of love, no matter the size, that becomes a step of faith and a miracle for someone we may never meet. If you've already given, thank you for being part of a movement of mercy; and if you haven't yet, I urge you to be the hope someone is waiting for, because through the BAA we tell the struggling family they're not alone, the seminarian that we believe in his calling, the student that God has a plan, and the weary and unseen that they matter and are loved. As you consider giving, think about what [Your Church Name] has meant in your life—the baptisms, the weddings, the quiet prayers, the laughter—and imagine someone else across our diocese experiencing the same grace because you chose to say yes.

Please consider donating this weekend!

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Pulpit Announcement #3:

Thank Donors and Mention Participation #'s Relevant to your Church

Thank you to all who have already participated in the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your generosity is a beautiful witness of how many parts come together as one Body in Christ.

Here at **[Parish Name]**, we have **[X participating households]** who have made a gift so far, out of **[Total parish households]**. We are grateful for every single “yes,” and we celebrate the growing number of families choosing to take part in this mission.

If you haven't had a chance to participate yet, we invite you to join us. Your involvement—no matter the amount—helps strengthen the ministries that serve our parishes, support our clergy, and bring Christ's hope to people across Eastern North Carolina.

Let's continue to grow together as one Body, united in faith and generosity

Pulpit Announcement #4

Opening Doors for the Future of the Church

Thank you for your continued patience and support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. We are truly grateful to everyone who has participated! If you haven't had a moment to join us yet, there's still time, and your “Yes” no matter the size, truly helps our parish and our diocesan ministries.

Please visit givetobaa.org and help us open doors.

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Pulpit Announcement #5:

5th and Final Pulpit Announcement

As we share this final reminder for the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal, we want to begin with a heartfelt thank-you. We know you've heard these invitations over the past several weeks, and we're deeply grateful for your patience, your prayer, and your generosity.

To all who have already participated—thank you. Your generosity strengthens our parish and the many ministries across Eastern North Carolina that bring Christ's light to people in real and tangible ways.

If you haven't had the chance to give yet, we invite you—one last time—to consider joining us. Participation is what matters most. When each of us offers even a small part, together we become a powerful witness of what it means to be many parts, yet one Body in Christ.

Thank you for all the ways you share your gifts, your faith, and your heart with our community.

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Prayers of the Faithful During BAA

Prayer 1: For the Church

For our Holy Father, Pope Leo, for Bishop Luis, and for all who shepherd the people of the Diocese of Raleigh: that the Holy Spirit may strengthen them in faith, hope, and charity as they guide our diocesan family. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer 2: For the Success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal

For the Bishop's Annual Appeal: that through the generosity of our faith community, the ministries of our diocese may continue to form disciples, serve the poor, and build up the Body of Christ across eastern North Carolina. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer 3: For Parish Communities

For all parishes and missions throughout the Diocese of Raleigh: that our shared commitment to the BAA may deepen unity, encourage stewardship, and strengthen the witness of the Church in our neighborhoods and cities. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer 4: For Our Diocese and Clergy

For our beloved Bishop and all clergy in our diocese, that they may continue to be instruments of God's love and mercy, faithfully guiding the people of our diocese as they open their hearts and doors to the needs of the faithful through the Bishop's Annual Appeal. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.



Prayers of the Faithful (continued)

Prayer 5: For Those Served by the Appeal

For all who benefit from the Bishop's Annual Appeal—families in need, the vulnerable, seminarians, Catholic school students, campus ministries, and those seeking spiritual support—that they may encounter God's love through the ministries made possible by our gifts. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer 6: For a Deepened Faith in Our Parish Family

For our parish family, that through our participation in the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we may grow in faith and love, opening not only our wallets but also our hearts, as we respond to God's call to serve one another. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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Bulletin Announcements

Announcement 1: “Launching the 2026 Bishop’s Annual Appeal”

The 2026 Bishop’s Annual Appeal officially begins this week! As a diocesan family, we are invited to join together in supporting the ministries, programs, and outreach efforts that bring Christ’s love into our parishes and communities. Your prayers and participation help strengthen Catholic education, support parish vitality, and extend care to those in need. As we begin this year’s Appeal, please take time to reflect on how you can contribute to this mission of faith and service.

Announcement 2: Your Gift Changes Lives

This week, we highlight the many ways the Bishop’s Annual Appeal brings hope to individuals and families across the diocese. From providing tuition assistance for Catholic school students to supporting food pantries, homeless outreach, and faith formation programs, your generosity makes a real and lasting impact. Every gift—large or small—helps us build a stronger Church dedicated to compassion, formation, and evangelization. Thank you for prayerfully considering a contribution to the 2026 Appeal.

Announcement 3: “Strengthening Our Parishes Together”

As we enter the third week of the 2026 Bishop’s Annual Appeal, we focus on how the Appeal directly strengthens parish life. Funds support vocations, pastoral ministries, youth programs, and ongoing training for clergy and lay leaders. These resources equip our parishes to serve with excellence and ensure that the sacraments, worship, and faith-filled community remain vibrant. Your participation in the Appeal is an investment in the spiritual life of our entire diocese.

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Announcement 4: “Called to Serve with Generous Hearts”

The Bishop's Annual Appeal reminds us that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Your contribution supports charitable ministries that care for the poor, the elderly, the sick, and the marginalized. Through your generosity, the Church can respond with compassion and provide real assistance to those who rely on our help. If you have not yet made your pledge to the 2026 Appeal, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so this week.

Announcement 5: “Thank You for Your Commitment to the Church”

As we enter the final week of the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal emphasis, we extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have already made a gift or pledge. Your generosity sustains essential ministries throughout our diocese and reflects a shared commitment to living the Gospel. If you have not yet participated, there is still time to join in this important mission. Together, we continue building a future of faith, service, and hope for our Church and all whom we serve.

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Speaker Requests

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Catholic Charities Executive Director	Lisa Perkins	(984) 900-3120	Lisa.Perkins@ccharitiesdor.org
Catholic Charities Director of Development	Katey Fithian	(984) 900-3119	Katey.Fithian@ccharitiesdor.org
Catholic Charities Director of Communications and Disaster Services	Daniel Altenau	(984) 900-3115	Daniel.Altenau@ccharitiesdor.org
Catholic Formation and Evangelization (Spanish), Hispanic Ministry	Lettie Banda	(984) 900-3182	Lettie.Banda@raldioc.org
Adult Faith Formation	Patrick Ginty	(984) 900-3188	Patrick.Ginty@raldioc.org
Office of Child and Youth Protection, Catholic Schools	Dr. John Pendergrass	(984) 900-3112	John.Pendergrass@raldioc.org
Human Life and Dignity	Deacon Josh Klickman	(984) 900-3181	Joshua.Klickman@raldioc.org
Prison Ministry	Deacon Mike Vandiver	(984) 900-3180	Deacon.Mike.Vandiver@raldioc.org
Seminarians	Brenda Elizalde	(984) 900-3104	Brenda.Elizalde@raldioc.org

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Completion of the Appeal

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is a year-round campaign and runs through December 31, 2026. Gifts postmarked after December 31, 2026, will automatically be credited to the 2027 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Additional Information

Our Development Department is here to help serve your parish in any way you need! Please reach out to Sarah Macey if you need any additional materials, donor information, bulletin or pulpit announcements or just have general questions.

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Thank you

Thank You for Your Dedication and Service

Thank you so much for your time, effort, and commitment to the success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your leadership and dedication help make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those in need throughout our diocese. By guiding our parishioners and encouraging their generosity, you are playing a vital role in proclaiming the Gospel, serving our communities, and educating the next generation of Catholics.

Your willingness to share your talents and faith with others embodies the very spirit of Christian stewardship. We are truly blessed by your partnership in this important mission. May God continue to bless you and your family for your selfless service, and may the fruits of your labor bring hope and healing to those who need it most.

Thank you for opening doors to new possibilities and for being an integral part of the work God is doing through the Bishop's Annual Appeal!