



February 1, 2026

{Name}
{Address}
{City, State, Zip}

Dear {First Name},

I've recently been reflecting on the lessons I learned as a young boy, when I was fortunate to grow up on a country farm in Cross Plains, Wisconsin. We were surrounded by 313 beautiful acres of rolling hills. Twice a day, I milked our beloved Brown Swiss cows.

Farmers know that to plow a straight furrow, the farmer must keep their sights focused forward. We, too, must look forward as a Catholic church. The farm taught me about hard work and the importance of community. We are called to serve one another and to respond to God's call beyond our neighborhoods – especially to those in most need.

And, above all, living on a farm taught me that we reap what we sow. As St. Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

Today, I'm proud to present to you, our 2026 Catholic Stewardship Appeal theme: ***Planting Seeds. Harvesting Hope.*** Together we are called to bear fruit in Jesus's name. The Catholic Stewardship Appeal is a powerful way we live out our mission in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and **your past gifts have already made a profound difference in the lives of many.** Our many ministries are flourishing, including:

- Our growing St. Francis de Sales Seminary. Your gifts directly support the spiritual and educational formation of 40 future priests called to serve parishes in southeastern Wisconsin.
- Catholic values taking root in young people in more than 100 Catholic Schools.
- Our central city parishes, serving parish families who speak more than 20 different languages.

These are only a few ways our ministries are coming to life. **Thanks to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal, your gifts span across 10 counties in southeastern Wisconsin.**

When we plant seeds of hope through our generosity, we can trust that God's harvest will deepen our 40 life-changing ministries. **I invite you to prayerfully consider how you might plant your own seeds and to learn more about our new Society of 1875 — a generous community honoring our history, tradition and faithful future (see more information on insert).** Together, we become a part of something far greater than any individual.

Thank you for your faith and prayers and for your consideration to renew your support this year. May God bless you and your families — and may the seeds you've sown bear a rich harvest of hope.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob
Archbishop of Milwaukee

P.S. Your gift makes a major difference! To give online, visit www.catholicappeal.org or text APPEAL2026 to 414-348-8380.

Planting Seeds.
Harvesting
Hope.

Nurturing the work of 40 ministries
through the Catholic Stewardship
Appeal to strengthen parishes,
schools and communities

Future pastors of southeastern Wisconsin

“I grew up at St. Mary’s Menomonee Falls. When I was in 7th grade, there was a priest that was living his priesthood very heroically. And, he had a great love for God and that emanated through him. His example inspired me to follow and become a priest.”

— **Jacob Bruns, 3rd Theology, St. Francis de Sales Seminary**

Pictured with Very Rev. Luke Strand, Rector, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary



Catholic schools across the region

“In my first several months as Archbishop, I went back to the classroom. I witnessed the fruit of our ministry and our Catholic faith growing in more than 100 Catholic Schools. More than 2,000 teachers are shaping children, both academically and spiritually.”

— **Archbishop Jeffrey Grob**

Central city Catholic parishes

“My Catholic faith touches every aspect of my life and is a huge part of my family’s identity. It is so important that we can continue to practice our faith in these spaces. Your gifts allow us to have a very bright future. A future in our faith, a future of our parishes, and a future in our communities.”

— **Tianna Evans, St. Martin de Porres parishioner**

Pictured with Fr. Michael Wolfe, Pastor, Central City Parishes and Vicar for Urban Ministry



Helping ministries thrive throughout southeastern Wisconsin

These are just a few of the ministries strengthened by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal. Your support touches hearts across our ten counties, serving those in need, forming future leaders, and helping build a vibrant future for our Church.

Make your gift today and help our ministries continue to grow

Visit www.catholicappeal.org to donate online.

For more information, contact Jenny Mendenhall, CSA Director, at (414) 769-3320 or mendenhallj@archmil.org.

Sharon and Jim deGuzman, Chairs,
2026 Catholic Stewardship Appeal



Introducing the Society of 1875

As lifelong Catholics, we've been amazed at how our faith tradition is passed along from one generation to another. We witnessed our resilient grandparents wearing out their rosary beads. We admired our parents quietly making the sign of the cross and celebrating the sacraments. Through each sacred interaction, they taught us that we, too, must carry our Catholic faith forward.

As new chairs of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal, we recently learned the important role our ancestors played in the year 1875. On April 21 of that historic year, Pope Pius IX elevated the Diocese of Milwaukee to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee – one of only 33 metropolitan Archdioceses in the United States today.

Just as our relatives helped elevate our Catholic faith more than 150 years ago, now is our time to strengthen our faithful future in southeastern Wisconsin.

We invite you to prayerfully consider making a leadership gift of \$1,000 or more to join the Society of 1875 (previously known as the Campanile Society). Your generous gifts support 40 life-changing ministries. Together, we will honor the gifts of those who came before us and preserve the hopes and prayers of the next generation.

Sharon and Jim deGuzman

Give today, grow tomorrow.

*An invitation to join the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's
passionate community of philanthropic supporters.*

All donors giving \$1,000 or more are welcomed into the Society of 1875.

The Society includes additional recognition levels for those
who make leadership gifts at higher amounts.



Society of 1875 | \$1,000 annual gift

In 1875, Pope Pius IX elevated our then-Diocese to an Archdiocese. Our newest society, which replaces the Campanile Society, embraces our history. You'll join our annual recognition Mass, reception and dinner, hosted by Archbishop Grob.



Halo of our Lady | \$2,500 annual gift

Her sacred Halo inspires. And sends an invitation to families to grow their devotion to our Blessed Mother across the Archdiocese.

BISHOP'S CIRCLE

Bishop's Circle | \$5,000 annual gift

The Bishop's Circle honors those whose generosity provides vital leadership support for the mission of the Church, advancing the priorities of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

ARCHBISHOP'S CIRCLE

Archbishop's Circle | \$10,000 annual gift

United in sustaining the future of the Catholic faith, members of the Archbishop's Circle are faithful stewards who ensure the Catholic Church will thrive for future generations.



Beacon of Light Benefactors | \$25,000 annual gift

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's new premier-level philanthropic giving community plays a major role in driving the vision and mission-driven priorities of our new leader.

Additional ways to give:

- Recurring giving (monthly, quarterly or yearly contributions)
- Leave a legacy through planned giving (bequests, stock gifts, IRA or donor-advised funds)

For more information, contact Jenny Mendenhall, CSA Director
at (414) 769-3320 or mendenhallj@archmil.org.