

# Impact Report

## Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Gaylord,

On the next 10 pages, you will find a Diocesan Impact Report for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. On these pages, you will see statistics that reflect the countless acts of service taking place in each of our parishes, schools and organizations every day.

As I reflect on all the good that takes place in our diocese every year, I am overwhelmed with a sense of awe. We fulfill our mission by bringing the light of Christ into this world.

We are part of a vast, universal Church. We also belong to a local community of believers. We are united in a spiritual bond established by God's grace. Until God calls us back to our true home in heaven, we rejoice to be in, and build up, the body of Christ on earth. It is through word, worship, service and community that we find our dignity and true contentment. All our efforts to build up the Church should be rooted in this reality.

When we reflect on the individual moments and people served in the past year, we can more clearly see God's goodness. One of the great benefits of our annual CSA campaign is telling inspirational stories. While we can only highlight a few stories in this Impact Report, we know there are thousands of stories throughout the 11,000 square miles of the Diocese of Gaylord. I am so grateful to serve as bishop of this local Church and celebrate the sacraments with you. In this last year of the National Eucharistic Revival, may the celebration of the Holy Mass remain the "Source and Summit" of our faith. †

In Christ our Life!



Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh  
Bishop of Gaylord





## Diocese by the Numbers

The Diocese of Gaylord encompasses 11,171 square miles across 21 counties with the mission to proclaim the saving message of God's love and invite disciples to share that word of hope and charity to a troubled world.

Parishes

75

Seminarians

5

Schools

16

Permanent Deacons

29

Shrines

2

Deacon Candidates

12

Chapels

1

Religious Brothers

1

Cemeteries

67

Religious Sisters

21

Active Diocesan Priests

37

Directors of  
Parish Life

7

Priests from  
Religious Orders  
or Other Dioceses  
with Assignments

7

Diocesan Employees  
(FTEs)

38

Priests Providing  
Temporary Coverage

13

Employees  
throughout  
the Diocese

1,255





“The values St. Mary School stands for are my favorite thing. Along with educating our kids in faith, they are also helping us instill core values in our kids.”

**St. Mary Cathedral School parent**



## Fostering Communities of Faith

### SCHOOLS

Our 16 Catholic schools educate the whole child—spiritually, morally and academically. We foster a faith-filled environment where students develop into lifelong learners, active community members and virtuous children of God.

- 91% of our Catholic high school graduates go to college or university.
- 100% of our students participate in numerous community service projects throughout the year.

3,093

Student Enrollment PreK  
through High School

12:1

Average Student  
Teacher Ratio

\$4,045

Average Tuition  
per Student

\$8,637

Average Cost to  
Educate a Student



75

Parishes

459\*

Confirmations

38

Youth Ministers

494\*

Baptisms

171\*

Marriages

48

Directors of  
Religious Education

421\*

First Holy  
Communions

1,107

Faith Formation  
Students

174

Catechists

\*numbers from calendar year

## PARISHES

With nearly 13,000 Masses celebrated yearly, our parishes are the lifeblood for word, worship, service and community. In conjunction with schools, charities and resource centers, our parishes are the hearts of the Catholic community.

“Boyne Valley Catholic Community offers me many opportunities to be active in parish life and strengthen my faith. I have a wonderful faith family who inspire me to pray, worship and be involved with youth ministry and serve as a liturgical minister.”

**Teri Donaldson, parishioner of  
the Boyne Valley Catholic Community**







## Bishop on the Move:

Miles Driven

37,283

Meetings hosted

342

Masses, Retreats,  
Reconciliation  
Services, Liturgies  
Celebrated

144

Community and  
School Events  
Attended

87

## Shepherding God's People

The role of the bishop is to sanctify, teach and govern the diocese. Bishop proclaims the Gospel; teaches the faith; celebrates the sacraments in unity with priests and deacons and, in collaboration with lay pastoral members and catechists; plus governs the diocese's resources as a good steward. The Chancery team aids the bishop in fulfilling his roles, including providing support and consultation to our 75 parishes and 16 schools to fulfill the Church's mission.

- To launch the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Walsh held Holy Hour and a Half adoration and catechesis in each of the seven vicariates.
- During Lent, Bishop Walsh provided video Eucharistic reflections.
- Bishop Walsh celebrated the sacraments of confirmation and first holy Communion at every parish—even if only one individual was receiving the sacrament.

"I enjoy the way Bishop Walsh reaches out to all corners and cultures in his diocese, and beyond, including the Native American community."

**Cheryl Phillips, parishioner from St. Ann Parish in Cadillac**



# Spreading God's Word

Thousands of people are inspired by and invited to encounter Jesus and connect with their faith community through various communication tools:

- 21,390 households received the bimonthly *Faith* magazine
- 3,545 households viewed the televised Sunday Mass weekly; additional 293 views via livestream
- 42,648 new web users visited dioceseofgaylord.org
- 936 social media users watched "Checking in with Bishop Walsh" weekly
- 61,075 views of diocesan YouTube videos with 2,806 views of the special "Lenten Series" by Bishop Walsh
- 20,500 visits to diocesan Facebook page

"I look forward to receiving the *Faith* magazine. It is a magazine that helps me with my faith journey."

**Mary Sass, parishioner from Holy Family Parish in East Tawas**





# Caring for God's Children

## SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In 2023, the Diocese of Gaylord offered refuge to four Nicaraguan men facing religious persecution for serving the Diocese of Matagalpa. Because of their Catholic faith, they were unjustly separated from their families, imprisoned and eventually expelled from their country. After boarding a U.S. State Department plane, they began their new life in Northern Michigan. By the grace of God and through the generosity of those in the Diocese of Gaylord, they are now reunited with their families. Father José Luis is continuing his studies in Rome.

"I thank everyone who has helped us, those who have prayed for us and Bishop Walsh and Father Wayne, who have become great friends. I would like to extend my thanks to those who have given us their time, their hospitality and shared what they have with me and my family."

**Wilberto Artola Mejía, former Nicaraguan journalist  
for the Diocese of Matagalpa**



"The Diocese of Gaylord was the instrument that God used to perform the miracle that my husband and I asked God for, which was to be together again as a family."

**Maria Victoria Pérez Escoto, former Chancellor  
for the Diocese of Matagalpa**




## AIDING CATHOLIC HUMAN SERVICES (CHS)

The social services arm of the Diocese of Gaylord is Catholic Human Services (CHS). Each year, a portion of CSA dollars supports CHS and their work serving all counties in our diocese. CHS serves all — regardless of faith, income, race or ethnicity — by providing mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling and prevention, pregnancy counseling, open adoption, social services and senior services.

“Catholic Human Services helped me continue moving on as a widow. I had so much thrown at me; I didn’t have a lot of time to care for myself. My regular appointment with CHS provided me an opportunity to sort things out and gave me the time I needed to heal. CHS also helped my youngest children who were struggling with anxiety. After counseling, they were able to return to school with less anxiety.”

**Kathy Wilde, CHS client, mother of five children dealing with sudden loss of her husband**



 Damian Wojciechowski, Apostolic Administration of Kyrgyzstan

## HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Our diocese supported those in need locally and internationally through special collections taken up throughout the year. Most of the National Collections were paid from Catholic Services Appeal funds; those noted to the right were held separately throughout the year.

- Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl • **\$49,383**
- Catholic Relief Services National Collection • **\$79,632**
- World Mission Sunday National Collection • **\$95,601**
- Retirement Fund for the Religious National Collection • **\$166,320**
- Ukrainian Crisis Special Collection • **\$32,372**
- Disaster Relief Special Collection • **\$68,833**
- Seminarian Education Fund • **\$199,371**

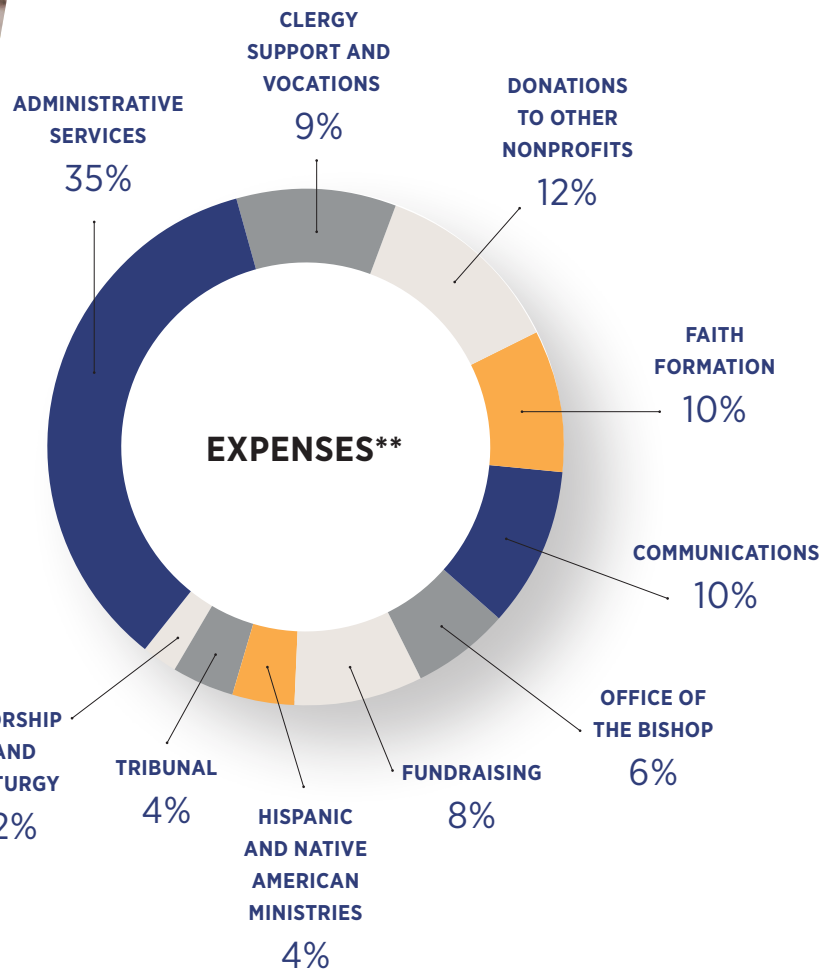
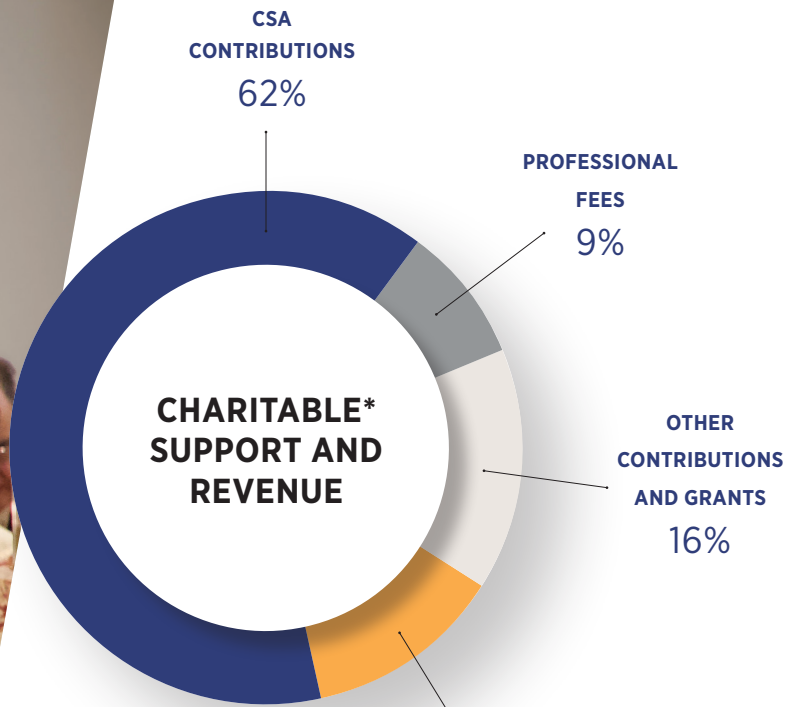




## Financial Breakdown

The financial breakdown is a summary of the Diocese of Gaylord's audited statement, compiled yearly by Dennis Gartland & Niergath public accounting firm. The full report is available on the diocesan website. The diocese strives to be an excellent steward of your gifts and to maintain the highest levels of fiscal responsibility.





*\* Charitable support and revenue total of \$7,331,732 includes unrealized loss of investments of \$1,676,425 and net loss on investments \$163,457.*

*\*\* Total expenses of \$5,335,270 includes depreciation of \$275,575.*