

UPCSA 2023-2024

The theme of this year's UPCSA is: "Behold, I make all things new through the Eucharist."

My dear Parish Family Members,

As usual, the Summer Season has already given way to the short Fall Season which will pave way for the long winter. Our hectic summer activities are almost over and we are looking into our closets to dig out our sweaters and jackets. But we are grateful to God for the 4 seasons and the excitement and enjoyment they give us.

As usual each Parish is planning for some Fall Events like harvest dinner and raffle drawing and so on, which are normally a little bit of fundraising as well as means of social gathering. The preparation for our harvest dinner is underway and you are engaged in selling the raffle tickets. I appreciate this effort. Together with that as usual we begin the major Diocesan Capital Campaign the UPCSA in September.

Recently the Diocese has introduced some changes to this year's UPCSA. It is good that you may also know about these changes though they are not going to affect your pledges and contribution. Mostly these changes are applicable to the parishes, the way they handle the Campaign.

First of all the parishes are given the option to kick off the UPCSA either in the summer or in the fall. (*We still follow the fall as we did in the past*).

Secondly, donations and pledges towards UPCSA will also now be directly handled and processed by each parish, rather than at the Diocesan level, and all donations and pledges going beyond a parish's goal will still be retained by the parish for its use with no need for the parish to have to wait for a reimbursement check from the Diocese. Again, these changes don't affect the members at all.

I am very grateful and glad that so far our parish has a very good track record in achieving our UPCSA goal. So far we never failed to reach our goal. On this occasion I remember with appreciation the extra generosity of a few members who stepped forward with a timely helping hand when we thought that we would not achieve the goal. Last year is good example of the same. I am very positive that you will show the same interest and support this year too.

I don't have to repeat the fact that how much the Diocese depends on your generous financial support in various areas of its activities. The Diocese doesn't have any source of income other than the generosity of its people. The Bishop totally relies on your goodwill and he is grateful for that.

This year our UPCSAs goal is a little over **\$ 41,000** which is a bit higher than last year's goal. But I am confident that, as usual, you will take up this challenge and achieve this goal. You know, how much you can afford, based on your financial situation. So I don't ask you as how much you need to contribute; rather I request you to do your best, even with a little sacrifice. Remember the story of the widow who could just contribute only couple pennies. Due to her sacrifice to give that amount, our Lord commended her generosity. Where there is sacrifice involved in giving the reward will be great from the Lord.

To help our parish reach its target goal, please complete the UPCSAs pledge card and return to the parish as soon as possible. **Please don't send the pledge card directly to the Diocesan office.**

Thanking you on behalf of Bishop Doerfler and personally from me,

With Love and Prayer!

Fr. Sebastian