**HOMILY HELPS**

• **Promote DSA theme: “Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord”**

• **Encourage support of our diocesan-wide goal for 2018 - $5,000,000**

• **Encourage support of our parish goal for 2018 - $**

“Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord” is the theme of our 2018 DSA. It reminds us that each of us is called to discipleship, to grow actively in faith and to go and share the good news with the world. Supporting the DSA is one way to participate personally in this new evangelization.

Our contributions to DSA enable our diocese to evangelize through dozens of ongoing ministries. The programs and services funded by the DSA offer direct assistance to individuals and families and to our parishes and schools. Vitally important is the impact these efforts have in our parishes, where so much of the Church’s evangelizing work occurs in the activities of everyday life.

How is evangelization achieved through the many and varied ministries of the Church?

Your generous support of the DSA ensures that our Catholic Charities can offer faith-based counseling and can reach out to our families, our seniors, our persons with disabilities, our imprisoned and the needy in our diocese; that our seminarians and deacons and lay ecclesial ministry candidates are well formed…

That our catechetical, youth and young adult programs, and our schools receive guidance; and that our diocesan financial legal, tribunal and planning services remain available to our parishes. Much of this work could not be done effectively by an individual parish. That is why we pull together as a wider Church to accomplish these goals. Without your support of the DSA, this would not be possible.

Each year, your generous support has enabled our diocese to continue teaching, sanctifying, guiding and assisting our Catholic faithful and all who call upon us for caring and understanding.

Every day, throughout our diocese, Catholics promote the dignity of human life. Your generous gifts to DSA support the important work of our Catholic ministries and agencies as they provide immediate care for people who are hungry and homeless, ministry to persons with disabilities, compassionate support for the elderly and chronically ill and life-changing services for families and children at risk.

Your contributions to DSA provide the necessary support that helps us educate children about our Catholic faith. The DSA supports educational programs in our Catholic schools and religious education and sacramental preparation programs for children in our parishes. The Department of Education and Catechesis ensures program excellence, ongoing professional development, and evaluation of Catholic schools and religious education programs in our diocese.

Our gifts to DSA provide support for the spiritual formation and theological education of people called to vocations and ministries in the Church. Through the work of the Department of Formation, our gifts help to form the next generation of priests and permanent deacons while preparing others for the gift of holy matrimony or consecrated life. All of this work is made possible by our support of the annual appeal.

Each year, DSA unites all 77 parishes of our diocese, drawing us together to achieve far more than any individual or any single parish could accomplish alone. I am grateful beyond words for the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice of the people of this parish to engage in the many evangelizing and social ministries of our wider Church. May you be blessed for all that you do for one another.