

Central Ministries at Work in Your Parish

Every day, our parishes and schools are supported by the Central Ministries of the Archdiocese. This exercise will help you identify some of them and prepare your witness talk for Announcement Weekend (March 3-4). Review the questions on the left. Then, in the middle columns, answer the questions with “yes,” “perhaps,” or “no.” When you are done, you will have a listing of some of the many Central Ministries in your parish.



	Yes	Perhaps	No	How the Appeal Helps this Ministry
Are there parishioners preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage?				The <i>Transformed in Love</i> marriage preparation program keeps direct program costs to a minimum.
Do parishioners participate in the annual <i>March for Life</i> in Washington?				The Lifelong Faith Formation ministry organizes and supports more than 800 pilgrims from the Archdiocese. It also supplements the cost of transportation, meals, and accommodation for all pilgrims, thus helping to keep the costs down for everyone attending.
Are any parishioners dealing with an unexpected pregnancy?				Three Pregnancy Help crisis pregnancy centers (in Brighton, Brockton and Natick), assist more than 350 women every year with a wide range of supportive services including ultrasound, adoption information, health, education and social service referrals. All services are free, confidential and available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
Is there a Faith Formation program in the parish?				The Faith Formation ministry leads and supports catechetical leaders serving students at all grade levels. Bilingual programs, those serving students with special learning needs, and those serving the hearing impaired are also offered.
Is there a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in the parish?				CYO athletic programs serve thousands of youth and adults each year. The Appeal supports the office and provides the financial assistance that helps to keep the program affordable.
Do you have a Scouting program in your parish?				The Catholic Committee on Scouting supports retreats for Scouts and Religious Medal training for Boy and Girl Scout Leaders.
Do you have young adults in your parish?				LIFT is a monthly worship gathering in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. It offers inspirational music, and Eucharistic adoration.
Are there adult faith formation programs in your parish?				Adult faith programs, including retreats and spiritual direction, serve more than 7,000 Catholics each year.
Are any parishioners hospitalized or ill?				The Health Care Ministry provides training, information, support, and referral for hospital chaplains and pastoral visitors to the sick at 70 healthcare facilities throughout the Archdiocese.
Are any parishioners in prison?				The chaplaincy outreach serves 23 correctional and pre-release facilities.
Are any parishioners in need of post-abortion healing?				Project Rachel offers post-abortion healing retreats, support groups, helpline assistance and referrals to specially trained priests and counselors for more than 200 people every year.
Are any parishioners mourning a loss?				The Bereavement Ministry, offering parishes training on grief and help in establishing Parish Peer Support Groups.

Are any parishioners seeking an annulment?			The Appeal provides full funding for this ministry, allowing healing and closure to those in need of an annulment.
Are there parishioners who speak languages other than English?			The ministry of outreach and cultural diversity supports Mass and ministry in 19 languages, and offers orientation for clergy serving from other countries, and sponsors faith filled celebrations for new Americans.
Does the parish offer pro-life programs in religious education or the school?			The Respect Life Education Office offers its “Created for Love” curriculum on life, love, relationships and marriage for middle school children and families. It also sponsors presentations by pro-life and chastity speakers in parishes and schools.
Are any parishioners in college?			Through programs, training, and staff support, the Appeal serves more than 2,000 students through campus ministry programs on 21 secular campuses in the area.
Is the parish served by a Deacon?			The permanent diaconate ministry offers information and support for men considering entering the diaconal program and provides ongoing support for all deacons.
Are new vocations important to the parish?			The Vocations Office is fully supported by the Appeal, helping those interested in exploring ordained or religious life.
Does the parish have a Pro-Life committee?			The Pro-Life Office provides guidance, support, and resources for parishes and schools with programs and liturgies which celebrate life from conception to natural death.
Is the parish served by a diocesan priest (or priests)?			The Appeal provides virtually all of the funding for the ministries that place priests in parish service and support them when they are there.
Does your parish have a school?			The Catholic Schools Office is supported by the Appeal, providing leadership, curricula, and management to 116 schools serving 37,000 students every year.
Does the parish have buildings?			The Appeal supports the Real Estate office, a liaison between the realtors, attorneys, tenants, and parishes. The Real Estate office facilitates the hiring of all appraisers, realtors and counsel, when needed and oversees over XX lease agreements for rental properties
Does the parish have employees or volunteers?			<p>The Appeal supports human resource needs of parishes, schools, and Catholic organizations. From recruiting, screening and onboarding, to evaluation, staff development, ongoing training, and benefits programs, a centralized Human Resource office provides service and support to 7,000 employees.</p> <p>To ensure the safety of our children, youth, elderly and the disabled, all Archdiocesan and Religious Order clergy, educators, volunteers, parish and school staff as well as men in preparation for the priesthood and diaconate are properly screened by evaluating each individual’s CORI (criminal offender record information.) Through the Office for Background Screening, approximately 85,000 CORI background checks are conducted annually.</p>
Does the parish have budgeting, accounting and financial reporting needs?			The Appeal supports the Parish Financial Services team whose primary function is to offer parishes the support and information they need to effectively manage parish operations.

*A complete listing of Appeal ministries is available at bostoncatholicappeal.org.
The annual financial audit for the Archdiocese of Boston is available at bostoncatholic.org/annualreport.aspx.*