

Testimonials: Catholic Ministry Appeal

Dear Friends,



Hello my name is Angelea Collins and I am a senior at Corning-Painted Post High School. I am a full IB diploma candidate, compete for the Corning Hawks Cross County, indoor and outdoor track team and perform in school musicals. Aside from school, I tap dance at 171 and I am the CEO of Frosted, a cupcake business that provides homemade, all natural, cupcakes to my community. Although hours, days, and weeks are packed full of homework, rehearsal, practice and cupcake orders, I spend a lot of time with God through reflection, scripture and in silence, listening. Whether it may be saying the rosary on a run, saying a prayer before a test with a friend or a moment of quiet reflection thanking God for everything He has given me, my focus is my faith. Attending mass is very important to me and is something I look forward to as the previous week comes to a close. I attend Mass every Sunday and during the summer, I attend daily mass. However, I do not hide my faith within the church, instead I live it and put it into action for all to experience God's love.

Many people look for a college with good education programs, competitive sports teams and a safe campus and although these aspects are important to my college decision, I look for a college community that will allow me to enlighten others about the truth and bring the lost back into the light. Sadly, for many students my age, their relationship with God dwindles as they go off to college, however apart from many of my peers, my faith journey is young and delicate. Within my faithful family, friends and from 10 years of Catholic education, I have found my mission. My mission of serving others for God. I am constantly spreading the word of God and my faith throughout my friends at school, my team and throughout my community. From discussions about the Catholic church with my friends or coordinating a prayer circle before every race, I act upon my faith in order to spread the word of God to all who come before me. I do not set God aside when traveling to track meets, spending time with my friends or when I am busy at school, rather, I embed it within my heart in order for the hearts of others to be touched by God's love.

My faith means the world to me and I thank God for everyone who has been apart of this beautiful journey. I am forever grateful. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal and my Catholic faith formation.

Thank You,
Angelea Collins

Dear Friends,



My name is Katie Leshar and I have been a member of All Saints Parish for three years, following my move to Corning, NY. Over the years I have volunteered in various ministries in the Catholic Church. In elementary school I was a Junior Lector in a New Jersey parish and then taught CCD with a friend from High School. After graduating from college I joined a parish in Dallas, Texas and became an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Since arriving at All Saints Parish I have worked with high schoolers during their two-year confirmation preparation program and volunteer as part of the youth group core team. Although baptized as an infant and a lifelong member of the Catholic Church, I've learned so much more about my faith in the last three years as a faith formation and youth group leader. Listening to the students question and accepting the Catholic Faith is both exciting and enlightening. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to watch every child grow in their faith and grow closer to God.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal is upon us and I am excited to commit financially to our Diocese. By giving to the CMA, we are providing to a fund that helps our community accomplish many different things. That includes the faith formation ministry which nurtures children and teenagers through a faith-filled adventurous life.

Fostering a relationship with the Church and with the Diocese is similar to being part of a family, belonging to something bigger than yourself. Like a family, you get out of it what you put into it.

I would like to thank each and every one of you, especially for your generous financial support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. For all teenagers, I encourage you to continue attending youth group, to find your own extended family of like minded Christian classmates. Having this Catholic family will greatly enhance your lives as you move from high school and into adulthood.

Thank You,
Katie Leshar

