

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL – BUILDING TOGETHER IN FAITH

This is Commitment Weekend, the last weekend of the active promotional phase of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. At this time all parishioners who have not yet made a decision are invited to prayerfully consider their response to the Appeal and make a pledge.

Next weekend we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, a time when we stop and reflect on all our blessings and give thanks to God for what we have been given. I invite you to think of Commitment Weekend as a kind of early Thanksgiving. As we gather to pray as a community this weekend, take time to reflect on the good gifts God has given you; gifts that include life, health, family, friends, creation, employment, talents and yes, our material goods as well. How are we called to express our thanks? We can do that in many different ways. We can give thanks in prayer as we gather to celebrate. We can express our gratitude as we communicate with others, thus reminding ourselves and them of our many blessings. We can give thanks by sharing some of our time, our talents, our care and compassion with others. And we can also give thanks by sharing some of our treasure – sharing with the poor in our community, reaching out to people who are in need in other parts of the world, and by responding to the Annual Appeal.

When we share a gift through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we are first of all giving thanks to God for all our gifts and blessings. In doing so, we are also assisting the diocesan church live out the mission of Jesus in our part of the world. We are also reaching out to our brothers and sisters in some of our smaller, rural parish communities who struggle financially to keep their parishes alive.

Inviting you to respond to the Annual Appeal does not mean that we are asking you to impoverish yourself for the sake of others. We are inviting you to share some of what you have so that others may benefit. Any gift that you are able to give is much appreciated and will contribute toward the diocesan goal. Any money collected by your parish over the parish goal will be returned to the parish for its own needs, so in helping the Annual Appeal, you are also helping your own parish.

May God continue to fill you with many blessings and help you to recognize and appreciate the wonder of God's love for you and for each of us. To all who have already responded, a sincere thanks for your generosity. We are almost a quarter of the way to our goal.

Richard Beaudette, OMI
Appeal Director