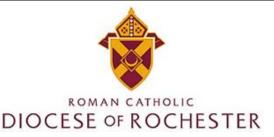
NEWS

Office of Stewardship, Development and Communications Released Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2005 Contacts: DOUG MANDELARO, (585) 328-3228, ext. 1247 or DAVID KELLY, ext. 1326



Bishop's annual appeal tops \$4 million mark

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – More than \$4 million has been pledged toward the 2005-06 Diocesan Ministries Appeal (TGA), Roman Catholic Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced today.

The appeal now is at approximately 80 percent of the \$5.3 million goal.

"I am delighted at this outpouring of generosity from Roman Catholics in our diocese who recognize that being a disciple of Jesus means sharing our blessings," Bishop Clark said. "I encourage all those still considering a gift to lend their support and join the thousands who are helping us feed our poor, pass on our faith to our youth, encourage vocations, strengthen families and provide our parishes with much-needed resources."

Contributions to the appeal enable the diocese to provide critical support to parishes, including training and support for catechetical leaders, youth ministry opportunities, migrant ministry, grants to inner city parishes, pastoral planning, and education. In addition, the appeal benefits Catholic Charities, which provides outreach to the poor and needy through regional offices located throughout the diocese. As well, the appeal delivers support to the diocesan Catholic Schools, by helping to fund administrative services for Catholic elementary and junior high schools.

KINDLY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR COVERAGE:

Those wishing to contribute can visit the diocesan website at <u>www.dor.org</u>, or call the Office of Stewardship, Development and Communications at 585-328-3228, ext. 1297.