

NEWS

Office of Communications

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Contact: Doug Mandelaro, (585) 328-3228, ext. 1247



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Bishop launches annual appeal with theme, ‘In Giving, We Receive’

Campaign goal of \$5.3 million will support ministries of Diocese

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Bishop Matthew H. Clark and officials from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester today announced a goal of \$5.3 million for the 2005-06 annual diocesan ministries appeal (TGA), which reaches out to Catholics throughout the 12-county diocese. The goal was announced at a news conference held at Good Shepherd School in Henrietta.

“Roman Catholics in our diocese have shown a tremendous generosity since the beginning of the Thanks Giving Appeal in the early 1980s,” Bishop Clark said. “I am very grateful. Over the past 25 years, this generosity has helped feed our poor, educate our youth, encourage vocations, fortified families and strengthened our parishes. We cannot do what we do without the people who support the appeal.”

The Bishop continued, “This year’s theme, *In Giving We Receive*, gets to the heart of what it means to be Catholic, reminding us to support one another and to thank God for God’s generosity by sharing with others. The annual appeal is an important opportunity to support each other, those most in need and our individual parishes.”

Bishop Clark told reporters that the children who surrounded him at the news conference symbolize the future of the church and the need to build it up for generations to come, as well as continuity -- that their parents and generations before them have sacrificed much and invested generously so the crucial work of the Church can flourish.

Brochures and pledge cards are being distributed to the approximately 125,000 Catholic households in the diocese, and personal appeals will be made at the parish level over the course of the next several weeks.

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, and support for the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. It also funds the pastoral planning process, which enables Catholic faith communities throughout 12 counties to face common challenges and maintain vitality in an era of declining clergy and resources. A large allocation from the Appeal is directed to Catholic Charities, which provides outreach to the poor and needy through regional offices located throughout the diocese. In addition, the appeal delivers support to the diocesan Catholic Schools, by helping to fund administrative services for Catholic elementary and junior high schools.

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