

NEWS

September 25, 2006



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Bishop Clark launches annual appeal

After 25 years, TGA will now be called Catholic Ministries Appeal

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Calling on Catholics to help sustain the local Church’s many ministries and to strengthen it for future generations, Bishop Matthew H. Clark today launched the 2006-07 annual appeal). The goal has been set at \$5.3 million for the appeal. The theme is “A Time to Share, For Generations to Come.”

Bishop Clark also announced that the appeal, which since its inception in 1981 has been called the Thanks Giving Appeal, has a new name: the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

“Our new name better reflects the intent of our annual campaign - helping to support the crucial outreach and ministries of the Diocese of Rochester and, both directly and indirectly, the mission of each of our parishes,” said Bishop Clark. “I am confident that the generous people of our Diocese will continue to support the ministries that help so many people throughout our 12 counties.”

‘We are calling on all Roman Catholics to help us pass on the tradition of sharing our time, talent and treasure with future generations.’

Bishop Matthew Clark

The goal remains unchanged from last year, which the Bishop said is appropriate given the financial challenges facing many families in tough economic times. “I know many of our communities face difficult economic situations,” the Bishop said. “I have been grateful that so many of our faithful are able to give, and generously, to keep the Church vibrant and help those less fortunate than they.”

Brochures and pledge cards are being distributed to the approximately 120,000 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 Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools and 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. ◀