

Introduction

On behalf of the entire Diocesan Staff, we thank you for your work on last year's Bishop's Annual Appeal *Faith Rich in Mercy*. With your leadership and support 2,550 families raised nearly \$514,000.

Our 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal *Walking in Faith* goal is \$600,000, but our real hope is to support the Church and live out our call to discipleship.

Your role in the success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal is significant. Each year is an opportunity to take a fresh approach to participating in the Appeal. Last year forty-one (41) parishes exceeded their Appeal goal and nearly 700 additional families participated. Please take this time to share with your parish community how their participation in the Appeal helps us all to live out our call to discipleship. Share how the parish community will benefit from the resources gained in meeting and *exceeding* the parish Appeal goal.

This Parish Manual has been prepared to guide your parish through the Appeal process. It contains a recommended program schedule as well as a variety of support material for a successful Appeal in your parish. Please review the enclosed information closely and enthusiastically promote the 2017 Appeal. If you have any questions, please feel free to call on us at any time.

Thank you again for all that you do on behalf of our diocesan community. It is a blessing to be in this work together. We ask that you pray for the success of the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. May God bless you for your generosity and personal commitment as we answer the Lord's call to walk in faith with Him.

Yours in Christ,

The Diocesan Staff