

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal
A Message from Bishop Frederick Campbell

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave His Body, the Church, a wonderful and serious mission: to offer others the great gift that He has given us. Through His preaching, miracles, death, and resurrection, Jesus revealed the profound love of God for His creation and the abundant life granted those who follow Him. Taking up the mission of Christ, the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel, to offer worship and prayer, and to do the charity of Christ. In this fashion, the church lives the two great commandments of Christ: to love God with our whole souls, hearts, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves. For the local Church, the Diocese, to fulfill this mission requires resources of faith, loving concern, and generosity.

The theme for this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal is "Living the Gospel in Faith, Hope, and Charity." We seek to share the Good News, provide an encounter with Christ, the source of our hope, in the sacraments and respond to those brothers and sisters who are most in need.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, explains that “charity is not another kind of welfare activity,” but is central to the nature of the Church and “an indispensable expression of her very being.” As good and faithful stewards of the Body of Christ, we live out the threefold mission of the Church as we proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and give of ourselves in Charity to others. Your participation in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is a direct and practical way to proclaim Christ’s love for our neighbor not only in words, but also in our corporal works of charity. We become a light of hope to the hopeless, a gleam of faith to the faithless and personal instruments of God’s Caritas, His Love, for which so many long. It is through Christ and the Church that we enjoy the fullness of life God offers to us. Remember that the gifts He has bestowed on us are to be shared with our brothers and sisters.

The compassionate spirit of our diocesan family is witnessed through your generous response to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Your contributions help so many wonderful families and individuals, as well as fund services and ministries that assist the work of the Church. This year, our goal is to raise \$6.5 million for children, families, men, and women across the Columbus Diocese. This weekend, every household in our diocese is being asked to demonstrate God’s Love by generously supporting the needs of our diocese.

Your gifts to the Appeal will offer support to our seminarians, preparing to serve our diocese as our priests and our spiritual leaders for many years to come. Your gifts support the life of our parishes, the tireless efforts of promoting human dignity and the faithfulness of Christian marriage and family life. Our social programs and ministries serve our senior citizens, the impoverished, immigrants, and others in our communities who warrant our special attention and care. Your gifts help our Catholic schools and religious education programs that provide assistance to families who sacrifice so much for their children to receive a Catholic education and to the many opportunities for adult faith formation provided in our parishes.

We are blessed to be a part of the universal Catholic Church established by Christ over 2000 years ago. We live the Gospel not solely as individuals, a single parish community, or a diocese, but united as One Body in faith, hope and love, knowing that together we can accomplish what we each cannot do alone. Your Bishop's Annual Appeal parish goal is a very important part in our meeting the challenging needs of our diocese.

I would like to ask you to please consider doing three things for this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal. First, pray for our diocese, our clergy and lay leaders, and all those in need of prayer throughout our diocesan family. Second, I would like

to ask you to be an ambassador for the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Encourage your fellow parishioners to give to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Use the Appeal brochure to explain how each gift helps so many in need. And third, prayerfully consider increasing your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The needs have grown and your generous support is needed and appreciated.

May God bless you and keep you in His perfect love. Peace and Joy to your family, friends and parish.