15 May 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

The joyful celebration of the Easter season concludes with the Solemnity of Pentecost – the Birth of the Church. I hope that these weeks observing the glorious Resurrection of our Lord have renewed us for the work of sharing his light and life with others, much like the Apostles and the members of the early Church. I pray that the same Spirit that descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost will guide us to share God’s gifts and blessings with others, especially those in most need.

As pastor of **[PARISH NAME]**, I consider myself truly blessed to be part of a community that embraces so many opportunities to share the love of Christ with others. Through our **[INSERT A FEW SPECIFIC PARISH PROJECTS]** and many other special collections of items and funds throughout the year, our parish always responds generously in providing care and compassion to those in need.

Today, I am also writing to discuss our primary call to support the work of charity and the mission of the Church in the Diocese of Youngstown. This important and vital effort in serving others and uniting us even more deeply as one body in Christ is the *Annual Diocesan Appeal*.

The *Annual Diocesan Appeal: One in Hope, One in Mission* is not merely a fundraising initiative in support of worthy causes; it is about inviting families to take an active role in supporting the larger Church to help those around us. It is about coming together to provide real, immediate help to those in need. It is about being as one in hope and in mission. It is essential that each of us offer some share of our blessings toward this most worthwhile endeavor.

I truly believe the *Annual Diocesan Appeal* is a tangible expression of our solidarity with one another as members of the Body of Christ and is one of the most impactful ways we can support our Catholic Church. Your support helps so many people as we embrace God’s call to serve and affirms our commitment to making the joy of the Gospel and the love of Christ tangible in our parishes, diocese, and throughout Northeast Ohio. For example, your gift to the appeal:

* Expands emergency services and aid to families and individuals through Catholic Charities;
* Provides resources to Catholic schools, youth, and young adults as they gain knowledge and form a personal relationship with the Lord;
* Supports seminarians as they deepen their faith and commitment to the Catholic Church.

Thank you for all you do to help provide for our parish and the Diocese of Youngstown. Our Catholic faith community is a gift from God, and we can show our gratitude by loving and supporting those around us. May our shared participation in this year’s *Annual Diocesan Appeal* be a tangible expression of our oneness in Christ. I invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal using the enclosed pledge card and return envelope. The completed envelope may be turned in by way of the offertory at Mass or mailed to the parish. May God bless us all with the joy of His Risen Son!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

 **[PASTOR’s / DPA’s SIGNATURE]**

**[PASTOR’s / DPA’s NAME]**

*\*If this letter has crossed with your response in the mail or offertory, thank you for your generous response.*