

Dear Pastor,

As we begin the 2012 Annual Partners in Charity Appeal, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some pertinent news. Our campaign patron is Blessed John Paul II. The theme is most appropriate, "Open wide the doors to Christ." The words of the late pope also reflect his compassion, self-sacrifice, and generosity to others, and it is in this spirit that I write to you.

I want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all pastors, and administrators for the leadership that you so willingly provide for this important appeal. Together, as we begin our 52 years as a diocese, your support is more vital than ever.

Our diocesan goal for 2012 will be the same as last year, 5 Million. All parish goals will remain the same as well.

The faithful throughout the Diocese of Worcester are being asked "to do" as Jesus did: by serving those in need, by helping to spread the Gospel, by caring for our priests and encouraging vocations, by ensuring vibrant parish communities, and by passing on the faith to future generations – all of which is achieved by supporting the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

We are mindful that each of us is responsible not only for his or her parish, but also for the well-being of the Church throughout the Diocese and throughout the world. Since we are one community of believers, members of all parish communities throughout the Diocese of Worcester are asked to give to this important effort. It is important that everyone is given the opportunity to participate.

Over the next number of months, the faithful throughout our diocese can donate or make a pledge from the following options: (1) a one-time gift or pledge payable over eight to ten months; (2) credit card contributions; (3) an online gift or gift of securities.

When setting the campaign calendar we are sympathetic knowing that the suggested dates may not always work for all parishes. Thus, pastors are welcome to adapt this schedule so it best works for your individual parish. We kindly ask that you do conduct your In Pew Solicitation either on the weekend March 17/18 or as close to it as possible.

A campaign resource guide will be enclosed in each campaign box. The suggestions and guidelines will prove to be a valuable tool to ensure the success of your parish appeal. You may also find these documents on our web site, www.Partners-Charity.net

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF GATHERING

Bishop McManus recently sent an invitation inviting all pastors and diocesan priests to the 2012 *Partners in Charity* Campaign kick-off gathering. Bishop is hosting this event at the request of a number of pastors. This is an opportunity for the Bishop to personally convey the importance of this vital appeal.

BISHOP'S LETTER TO 2011 DONORS

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter which will be sent to all donors from the 2011 appeal, making the initial appeal as bishop of the diocese.

OUTDOOR SIGN

The outdoor sign is an important & inexpensive way of drawing attention to our appeal. Please consider displaying this sign beginning on the weekend of March 3/4. Once you reach goal we then ask that you display the thank you note which will initially be attached when you receive the outdoor sign.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Please note that the pastor's letter (sample to be enclosed in campaign material) should be mailed by Monday, March 5.

BULLETIN INSERT

There will be only one promotional bulletin insert for the campaign this year. Our hope is that every parish will insert this flyer on the weekend of March 10/11 or close to that date.

LAY WITNESS TALK

We recommend that the witness talk be conducted on the same weekend (March 10/11) as the bulletin insert is used. A sample witness talk is provided in the campaign material booklet.

IN PEW SOLICITATION

We are earnestly requesting that each parish conduct the traditional in-pew solicitation on the **weekend of March 17/18**. A step by step guide is provided to help in conducting this process. The guide will be enclosed within the campaign material and conveniently on our web site www.Partners-Charity.net Pledge Envelopes will be provided to every parish as in the past.

Should you have any questions, please call me directly at 508-929-4368. Together we can assure the success of the *Annual Partners in Charity Appeal* in your parish.

Finally, I ask that you pray for the success of the appeal.

Gratefully,

Michael Gillespie
Director of Stewardship & Development