

From Your Pastor

Support Our 2009 Catholic Appeal



Next weekend, March 7th and 8th, will be ***Catholic Appeal Weekend*** here at Saint Columbkille's. This Annual Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. Our participation and support are not only helpful; they are critical. It is for that reason that Cardinal Seán is asking every Catholic household throughout the Archdiocese to participate in this year's 2009 Catholic Appeal. Our Shepherd needs our help. God calls each of us to share our gifts with others for the building up of his kingdom.

As we prepare for the 2009 Catholic Appeal, Cardinal Seán has asked me to express again his heartfelt thanks to all of us from St. Columbkille's who together contributed \$37,099 to the 2008 Catholic Appeal. With the contributions from the 294 other parishes in the Archdiocese the 2008 Catholic Appeal raised \$15,100,000, surpassing its goal of \$15,000,000. What a great blessing this has been for the vital work of our Archdiocese.

The contributions we make every year to the Catholic Appeal help all of us in so many ways. They help to hand on our faith to young Catholics and to Converts by providing assistance to our Catholic schools, to religious education programs, to campus ministry, to youth ministry and to programs that support persons who want to enter into full communion in the Catholic Church. Our contributions also assist a number of programs for the priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese; these include clergy support and ongoing formation for priests, the Clergy Personnel Office and direct assistance to priests in graduate studies and to seminarians. Contributions to the Appeal also give Cardinal Seán and our regional bishops the

resources they need to serve and guide our local Church in Boston.

Next weekend, Catholic Appeal Weekend, we will be showing a video message from Cardinal Seán and asking every Catholic household to make a pledge. This year, our participation target is to have 252 households participating. Our financial goal is to raise \$35,500. If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use here at our parish. Please know that your participation counts and that every gift matters. Even a small gift is a very great help. I encourage you to take home an information packet from Mass this weekend so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate this year. Those of us who gave to the Appeal last year will also receive a letter this week from Cardinal Seán about the Appeal.

In his letter to us this year, Cardinal Seán speaks about the importance of this year's Appeal: "These difficult economic time serve to remind us of how essential the work of the Church is to our lives and those of our neighbors, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. During the Lenten season we are challenged to respond to our ongoing need for conversion and our mission to provide for the needs of so many people who rely on the Church for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being...Please consider sharing your material blessings through a gift to the Catholic Appeal."

May God reward each of us who are able to give. Our annual generosity to the Church of Boston through the Catholic Appeal is both a great responsibility and a wonderful blessing to the Body of Christ in our local Church. Let us together pray for and act towards its success this year.



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay