

From Your Pastor

Join Me in Supporting Our 2010 Catholic Appeal

Next weekend, March 6th and 7th, is **Catholic Appeal Weekend** at Saint Columbkille. 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 2010 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 2010 **Catholic Appeal**, Cardinal Seán has asked me to express his heartfelt thanks to the 233 of us from St. Columbkille who together contributed \$38,761 to the 2009 Catholic Appeal. With the contributions from the 294 other parishes in the Archdiocese the 2009 Catholic Appeal raised \$15,100,000, thus reaching this year's goal. 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. 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, direct assistance to priests in graduate studies and to seminarians. Contributions to the Appeal give Cardinal Seán and our regional bishops the resources they need to serve and guide us.



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 256 households participating. Our financial goal is to raise \$35,500. As always, if we exceed that 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. Most of you should have received a letter this week from Cardinal Seán about the Appeal. If not, please take home the info packet this weekend so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate this year.

Extra packets are at the doors of the church.

In his letter to us this year, Cardinal Seán speaks about the importance of this year's Appeal: "During Lent we are reminded of our call to share with our brothers and sisters in the Church and the wider community. As Catholics, we are reminded that as generous as we are, we can never match the generosity and goodness of God, who is the source of all our gifts and blessings. Please know that your contribution will make a meaningful difference to the people who benefit from the services and ministries funded by 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. Thank you and...



God bless each of you.

Mgr. Fay