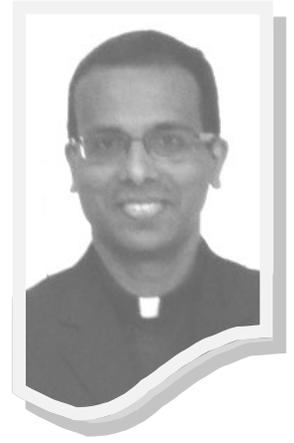




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## Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018

**O**ur parish-wide annual effort on behalf of the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) has begun. It is a fundraising campaign conducted each year in parishes throughout the Diocese of Baker to fund its pastoral ministries. Our Parish Goal for the 2018 Bishop's Appeal is \$122,463. The advance mail campaign for the Diocese began last week. Each of you should have received a letter in the mail from Bishop Cary asking for your gift/commitment to support the ministries of the Diocese of Baker. It is preferred that pledges be mailed with the envelope provided to avoid additional administrative expenses. Remember to mention St. Francis Parish on the envelope to get your gift credited toward our Parish Goal.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal provides substantial financial support to essential ministries that support the parishes in our diocese. These programs provide education, faith formation at all levels, ongoing clergy formation, formation of seminarians, and provides a Catholic presence for thousands of people. This year's Appeal specifically aims to establish a pro-life office at the diocese.

When we stop to count our abundant blessings, we start to live in gratitude. The Bishop's Appeal is an invitation to share your blessings, and support the Gospel Mission here in Central and Eastern Oregon. Your pledge is also a sign of your gratitude for God's generosity. While we can never out-do God in generosity, we are called to join in the Mission of the Gospel as we put forth the gifts of life, goodness, grace, and mercy through the sharing of our own blessings from God.

Please give prayerful consideration to your gift/commitment. The pledge cards may be mailed to the diocese or brought to the parish next weekend—the Commitment Weekend (May 19th/ May 20th)—and placed in the collection basket. If you did not receive a commitment card in the mail, pledge envelopes are available in the pews. Thanks to those of you who have already responded to the 2018 Bishop's Appeal.

Due to your generosity last year, we achieved our Parish Goal, which was about \$100,000. However, only 18% of our parishioners participated in the 2017 BAA. I hope we can better our participation this year. Please take the Appeal Bulletin Insert with you when leaving Mass today, reflect upon its content, and join me in prayer for the success of our efforts in the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

—Fr. Jose Thomas