

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Our parish-wide annual effort on behalf of the Bishop's Annual Appeal has begun. Our parish goal for the 2017 Appeal is \$98,524. The advance mail campaign for our diocese began on Monday, April 24th. Each of you should have received a letter in the mail from the Bishop 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. The direct mailing is done so that parishioners who are unable to attend Mass have the opportunity to contribute to the Bishop's Appeal.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal provides substantial financial support to essential ministries that support our parishes in our diocese. These programs provide education and faith formation at all levels and provide a Catholic presence for thousands of people. When we stop counting our blessings, we stop living 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 or commitment. The pledge cards may be mailed to the diocese, or they may be brought to Mass next weekend—the "Commitment Weekend" (May 20th–21st)—and placed in the collection basket. If you did not receive a commitment card in the mail, pledge envelopes will be available during Mass. Thanks to those of you who have already responded to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal.

We are stewards of our time, talent and treasure that God has given each of us. Bishop's Annual Appeal is an invitation to share a portion of our treasure through a gift to the 2017 Appeal. Your donations will be used exclusively to support the ministries, programs and services outlined in the promotional materials. 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 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

—Father Jose