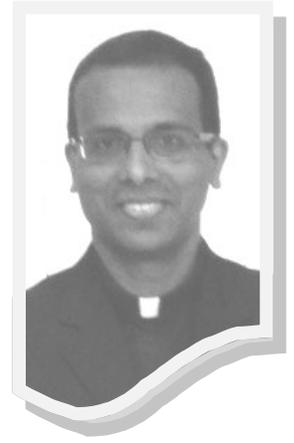




From the Pastor



Bishop's Annual Appeal Update

My special thanks to those of you who have sent in your contributions toward the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your generosity is much appreciated. Our goal for this year is \$122,462.00. So far, the pledges that have been made amount to \$73,434.00, which is 59.96% of our goal. There are only 227 households out of a total of 1,700 who have participated in the appeal so far. That puts our participation at 14%—which is disappointing.

It doesn't take a lot to reach the goal if all of us participate. It only takes \$72 to reach the goal if all parish families do their part. If you have not sent in your contribution, please consider sending in whatever you can. This is a sacrifice over and above your regular contribution to St. Francis. Redirecting or cutting back your offertory to support the Bishop's Appeal will definitely hurt us here at St. Francis. As you may have noticed, our offertory collection for June has been very scary. We fell far short of what we need weekly.

Already 16 parishes/missions in the diocese have exceeded their goal, and another 14 parishes/missions have reached more than 80% of their goal. We are now just about \$49,000 away from our Bishop's Appeal goal.

Your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal is one of the ways to show your love for the diocesan as well as the universal church. Your support goes a long way to enable our Shepherd, Bishop Liam Cary, to spread the Gospel and continue the Mission entrusted to us by Christ in the Diocese of Baker.

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.

Your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds the education of seminarians, including that of Caleb Cunningham, who is with us for his pastoral year. When we stop to count our abundant blessings, we stop living in gratitude.

Your support is also a sign of your gratitude for God's generosity. While we can never outdo 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. Remember: your gifts to the Bishop's Appeal will return to us in some form.

I pray that those of you who have not yet made a gift to the Appeal would consider participating in it. It would be wonderful to see our participation go up at least to 50%. Make your check out to "Bishop's Annual Appeal"; send it to the Baker Diocese address at 641 SW Umatilla Avenue, Redmond, OR 97756; or drop it into the offertory basket. Also, please be sure to write "St. Francis of Assisi, Bend" in the memo line of the check to be credited toward our goal.

Thanks for your kindness and support.

—Fr. Jose Thomas