

**2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
**A Message from Bishop Frederick Campbell**  
**Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There is no greater gift one can share than the love of Jesus Christ. It is the love that unclenches fists raised in anger and in hate, warms the coldest of hearts, fosters hope in hopelessness, and bridges every divide known to man. The infinite love of God, revealed to man in Christ, binds us into one body and encourages a unified hope. It is God's loving mercy and grace, by which we are strengthened and made new. It is a love we are not to keep to ourselves, but a redeeming love we are to share with others, giving encouraging hope to us all.

The theme for the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal is *Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope*. Pope Francis reminds us that "to love one's neighbor corresponds to the mandate and the example of Christ if it is based on a true love of God. It is thus possible for the Christian, through his dedication, to make others feel the tenderness of the heavenly Father." The Father's tender mercy promises a better tomorrow to those who believe and in this we place our faith, share His love and encourage hope for us all.

I continue to be edified and inspired by the generosity I witness as I travel throughout this diocese. The dedication and commitment to prayer, sacramental life, and service in mercy and love is lived and shared in your daily lives. The numerous ministries, services, and programs offered throughout the Diocese of Columbus, that so many of you work tirelessly to sustain, would not be possible without your prayers and your support to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

The Annual Appeal is the primary resource which enables the Diocese to educate our future priests and deacons, promote human dignity and the common good, and strengthen our families. It is through Christ and the Catholic Church that we enjoy the fullness of life and God's love for each us, remembering that this is a joy we are called to share, through our works and witness to others. Above all else, the Bishop's Annual Appeal is a direct reflection of the impact of our working together as one diocesan family. Together, we amplify the message of God's love and the power of his love. Together we touch the lives of thousands.

Your compassion and generosity is witnessed through your faithful response to the Bishop's Annual Appeal year after year. Your contributions help so many wonderful families and individuals, as well as fund services and ministries that are a part of the work of the Church. This year, our goal is to raise \$6.75 million for children, families, men, and women across the Diocese. This weekend, I am asking every household in our diocese to demonstrate God's love by generously supporting the many needs of our diocese. As we commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Diocese and the many who have served and have been served, let us joyfully renew our hope for the future.

We have over 240,000 Catholics who share in the sacramental life of our 108 parishes and missions across 23 counties. Your faithful support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps secure our Catholic legacy and future Masses, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, confessions, ordinations, and funerals. With all of the successful work and generous stewardship throughout our diocesan family, there are still areas of great need. I ask that you join me in praying for the current challenges and future opportunities of our Diocese as well as those of our individual parishes. Continue to pray for our clergy and lay leaders, and for all those in need of our prayers.

I also ask that each of you become an ambassador for the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Encourage your fellow parishioners and brothers and sisters in faith, to consider prayerfully their gift to the Appeal. The BAA brochure you received in the mail this past weekend will enable you to explain how your gifts help to secure our Catholic legacy and touch the lives of many. Then, prayerfully consider your own gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

May you know God's love intimately and the hope found in encountering Christ Jesus and may the peace of our loving Lord be with you.