

Thank You

Two simple words but filled with immense sincerity. With the innumerable struggles and uncertainties that have been thrown our way this past year and a half, I am tremendously grateful that so many of you have been inspired to invest a portion of your philanthropy in parish offertory to sustain your local church, and for many, additional investment in the entire diocese through the Diocesan Appeal. Our priests and parish leaders share with me their deep appreciation for the reliability and generosity of their parish family – what they believe is a heartfelt testament to the value of their commitment to you and your community. At the Diocesan level, decision-making with respect to worship restrictions, sacraments, etc. has been very difficult this past year, even painful. Please know that we have done our best with ever-changing information and noble intentions to best serve you, especially during this unprecedented time of need. Your faith and trust in us, reinforced by your philanthropic investments throughout this past year, was inspirational. The Diocesan relationship with your parish is a true partnership where we rely on each other for success in our Christian mission to “go and make disciples of all nations”—Matthew 28:19.

Your gift to the DIOCESAN APPEAL impacts everything from elements of your daily/weekly Mass experience to, for example:

- Critical ministries like faith formation for nearly 12,000 young Catholics in our diocese
- Resources to nourish the faithful through the sacraments such as Baptism, Marriage, and the Anointing of the Sick, which average 82,000 occasions annually across the Diocese (*excludes weekly Eucharist*)
- Extensive administrative services for parishes from 20+ specialties – *such as Human Resources, Finance, IT, Building Services, etc.* - relieving that burden on limited parish staff & allowing their focus on meeting the spiritual needs of parishioners
- Full 6-year scholarship investment in each of the men currently in formation for the priesthood in our Diocese and 3-year scholarship investment in the men currently in formation to become deacons
- Nurturing the well-being of our vulnerable friends and neighbors thru the services of Catholic Charities, the Diocesan Consultation Center, and other pastoral care ministries
- Comprehensive administrative services by the Catholic Schools office to ensure our 21 Catholic schools are competitive and cutting-edge. During COVID-19, they provided critical guidance and protocols (*1 Early Childhood, 16 K-8, 4 high schools*)
- Innovative new programming to attract and engage young adults, the future of the Church.

I thank you, dear friends, and ask God to abundantly bless you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Edward B. Scharfenberger

Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D.
Bishop of Albany

