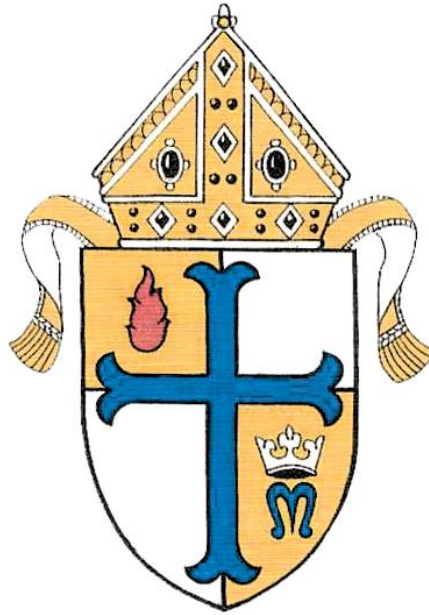


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**DIOCESE OF METUCHEN**  
**2011 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

*In Faith, With Hope*



**PARISH PROCEDURAL GUIDE**

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## Contact Information

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## Schedule: Appeal At-A-Glance

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- Sept. 13**                      **Bishop's Annual Appeal Training for Parish Representatives**  
7:30 PM at Diocesan Center  
Pastors are encouraged to attend with Parish Rep.
- Sept 21**                      **Initial Solicitation Mailing**
- Sept 24-25**                  **Kick-off Weekend**  
Bishop's Letter read from pulpit  
Banner & Posters on Display
- Oct. 1-2**                      **Pastor's Endorsement Weekend**  
Pastor's endorsement from pulpit
- Oct. 15-16**                  **Parish Representative's Parish Pulpit Update**
- Oct. 19**                      **Pastor's Follow-up Mailing**
- Nov. 12-13**                 **In-Pew Weekend**  
In-Pew Appeal Envelopes Distributed  
Lay Witness Presentation

### **REMINDER**

*Please remember to publish weekly bulletin announcements.*

*If you wish to schedule a Diocesan Speaker, please contact Sue Mantarro at 732-562-2432 or email [smantarro@diometuchen.org](mailto:smantarro@diometuchen.org).*

*Speakers are being scheduled for one weekend from the beginning of September to the end of February.*

## 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goals

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The financial goal for the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal is **\$7 million**. The primary goal at your parish is to reach the assigned parish target. Parish goals will be sent separately.

**Other benchmarks** and non-monetary goals that each parish should try to achieve:

- Build upon the success of the 2010 appeal.
- Re-engage donors in the parish who participated last year.
- Invite more people to give, especially those who did not participate last year.
- Encourage parishioners to increase their gifts through pledging which allows gifts to be spread over 4 payments.
- Maximize gifts by taking advantage of corporate matching. Encourage donors to contact their employer about matching gift benefits.
- Educate and inform parishioners about the many ministries supported by the appeal.
- Motivate parish leaders to be good will ambassadors for the appeal.

## Promotional Materials

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In order to achieve the objectives set forth this year for the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we are encouraging parishes to use the materials to inform parishioners about the pastoral, educational and charitable ministries supported by the appeal.

**Direct Mail Solicitation Packet** – To be mailed to all registered households, this packet includes: a letter from the Bishop, appeal brochure, pledge card and matching gift information.

***The Catholic Spirit*** – Free copies of *The Catholic Spirit* will continue to be provided. Throughout the campaign, the diocesan newspaper will have articles pertaining to the Bishop's Annual Appeal and the ministries it supports. Please encourage your parishioners to take a copy.

**Speakers Bureau** – We are expanding our efforts with the Speakers' Bureau which is comprised of Diocesan staff members who have volunteered to speak at parishes on behalf of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. We strongly encourage every parish to schedule a speaker for one weekend during peak campaign months (September through February). We will make every effort to accommodate the schedule of the parish.

### To Schedule a Diocesan Speaker

please contact

**Sue Mantarro, Associate Director of Stewardship**

**Phone: 732-562-2432 or Email: [smantarro@diometuchen.org](mailto:smantarro@diometuchen.org)**

**Appeal Website / On-Line Donations** – All appeal information can be found on the appeal website at [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org), including on-line donations.

**Pulpit Announcements & Bulletin Inserts** – Please follow the week-by-week instructions in this Procedural Guide for pulpit announcements and bulletin inserts.

**Banner & Posters** – Display the banner and posters. *Note: Spanish posters are available.*

**In-Pew** – Envelopes will be shipped to your parish prior to In-Pew Weekend (Nov. 12-13).

## Week-by-Week Check List

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|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Week of Sept. 12</b>           | <b>Bishop's Appeal Training Session<br/>for parish representatives<br/>SEPT. 13 – 7:30 PM Diocesan Center</b>                       | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Sept. 19</b>           | Display Banner & Posters  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|                                   | Prepare Bishop's Letter to be published<br>in 9/24-25 bulletin and read from pulpit   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>WEEKEND of<br/>Sept. 24-25</b> | <b>Kick-Off Weekend</b><br>Bishop's Letter read from pulpit & in bulletin<br>(translations in Spanish & Polish available)           | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Sept. 26</b>           | Prepare for Pastor's Endorsement from pulpit<br>And publish in bulletin on Oct. 1-2   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>WEEKEND of<br/>Oct. 1-2</b>    | <b>Pastor's Endorsement Weekend</b><br>Pastor's endorsement from Pulpit & in bulletin   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Oct. 3</b>             | Prepare Bulletin Announcement for 10/8-9 bulletin   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Oct. 10</b>            | Prepare Bulletin Announcement for 10/15-16 bulletin<br>Prepare Parish Rep's Parish Pulpit Update                                    | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/>                             |
| <b>WEEKEND of<br/>Oct. 15-16</b>  | <b>Parish Representative's Pulpit Update</b><br>Update read at all Masses   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Oct. 17</b>            | Prepare Bulletin Announcement for 10/22-23 bulletin   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Oct. 24</b>            | Prepare Bulletin Announcement for 10/29-30 bulletin   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Oct. 31</b>            | Prepare Bulletin Announcement for 11/5-6 bulletin   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Week of Nov. 7</b>             | Prepare Bulletin Announcement for 11/12-13 bulletin   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|                                   | Prepare Lay Witness talk for 11/12-13   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|                                   | Prepare for distribution for In-Pew Envelopes   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>WEEKEND of<br/>Nov. 13-14</b>  | <b>In-Pew Weekend</b><br>Lay Witness Talks at Masses<br>In-Pew Envelopes distributed<br>Prepare Parish Representative Pulpit Update | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |

# Pastor's Endorsement Pulpit Message

## October 1-2

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*The Pastor is by far the most effective advocate for the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Participation will be significantly higher with the Pastor delivering an "Invitation to Participate" on Pastor's Endorsement Weekend.*

### FACTS & SPEAKING POINTS

- The theme for the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal: *In Faith, With Hope*
- Every gift is important and we ask every household to participate with whatever gift they feel is appropriate.
- Following is a listing of some of *the pastoral, educational and charitable* ministries funded by the appeal. You may wish to cite some of these in your invitation to participate message.

### *Pastoral*

Through your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal you support the pastoral ministries which:

- The Bishop's Annual Appeal sustains a wide array of Diocesan programs that foster vocations and provide ongoing formation for those called to ordained leadership. Your generosity also ensures that our retired priests who have served so faithfully will receive suitable care in their later years.
- Support couples preparing for marriage and those who are married. Provide training and support, through Ministries of Consolation, to bereaved, separated and divorced persons.
- Reach out to teenagers as well as those in their 20's and 30's through special programs and activities, such as, Justiceworx, Diocesan Youth Day, Theology on Tap, and mission trips to Guatemala.
- Work to restore respect and legal protection of human life at every stage of its existence, including the embryo, the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, the terminally ill and dying.
- Provide Chaplains who offer spiritual support to Catholics who are hospitalized, sacramental and pastoral presence to the critically ill and dying, as well as, to family members in need of Pastoral Care.
- Make the Church present to those who are incarcerated within our diocese through our Office of Prison Ministry.

*(List of Ministries continued on page 9)*

## ***Educational***

Through your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal you support educational ministries which:

- Form Parish Evangelization Teams and provide training in both English and Spanish for Bible Study Leaders.
- Empower Catholic school educators to form and sustain learning communities by providing them with spiritual, instructional and managerial support.
- Sponsor retreats and social justice activities for college students involved in the Catholic Campus Ministry at Rutgers University.
- Provide training for catechists who share our faith with the children in parish Religious Education Programs as well as Adult Faith Formation.
- Supply resources, support, leadership formation, and consultation services to parishes implementing a Catechumenate process in accord with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

## ***Charitable***

The largest share of the Bishop's Annual Appeal (26.5% or \$1,885,000) is allocated to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal makes it possible for Catholic Charities to provide quality services to the poor, vulnerable and all people in need, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

Last year, Catholic Charities responded to the needs of the community in unprecedented numbers through more than 120 mission-driven services, including: shelters, food pantries, health clinics, counseling services and much more.



# Lay Witness Presentation

## November 12-13

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Good Evening/Good Morning Father \_\_\_\_\_ and my fellow Parishioners:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. *(Talk briefly about your family and your involvement in the parish.)*

I was approached by Monsignor/Father to speak about the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The challenge before me today is to encourage those families and households that have yet to support the 2011 Appeal – to do so. Yes – to make a gift or pledge according to your means and circumstances.

It is up to each of us to look inward, to reflect upon our lives and the many ways the Lord has blessed us. In return for these gifts, God asks that we nurture, develop and share them generously with others. The Bishop's Annual Appeal is an invitation to reach out beyond ourselves and our own parish to share our resources for the benefit of our Diocesan family.

*(Share some personal reasons that you support the appeal. Invite parishioners to join you in making a pledge.)*

[The ushers will distribute pledge commitment weekend envelopes in pew... OR ... Pledge envelopes are available at the doors of the Church.] Don't worry if you do not have your checkbook. You can fill out the envelope by completing the requested information and placing the sealed envelope in the collection basket. The parish will forward these envelopes to the Appeal Office. Or, you can take the envelope home and mail it to the Appeal Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

# Bulletin Announcements

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## September 24-25

**PLEASE NOTE:** This weekend has been designated as *Bishop's Letter Weekend*. The letter is to be **read from the pulpit and published in the bulletin**. A copy of the letter will be sent to your office in advance electronically. The Bishop's letter is also available in Spanish and Polish. **The text and translations can be found on pages 21-23 in this Procedural Guide**. If you need an additional copy of the English language version, or wish to obtain a copy in Spanish or Polish on the Bishop's letterhead, please contact Sue Mantarro, Associate Director of Stewardship, at 732-562-2432 or e-mail [smantarro@diometuchen.org](mailto:smantarro@diometuchen.org).

## October 1-2

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal** *In Faith, With Hope*

The Diocesan Office of Respect for Life works to restore respect and legal protection of human life at every state in its existence from conception to natural death. Beyond matters relating to the unborn, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, other topics being addressed include: reproduction technologies, cloning, stem cell research, chastity, the death penalty, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and end of life issues. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual appeal will help to sustain this important ministry.

## October 8-9

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal** *In Faith, With Hope*

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports programs that foster vocations and provide ongoing formation for those called to ordained and lay leadership roles within the Church. Your generosity also ensures that our retired priests who have served so faithfully will receive suitable care in their later years. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **October 15-16**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal** *In Faith, With Hope*

Many companies have Matching Gift programs for charity or educational purposes. If your company participates, the Diocese of Metuchen or one of the designated entities may be the recipient of these funds. The company match will increase the dollar amount received at no extra cost to you. For information, contact the Department of Stewardship & Development by phone at 732-562-2429 or e-mail [MatchingGift@diometuchen.org](mailto:MatchingGift@diometuchen.org). A list of Matching Gift companies can also be found on our website [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org).

## **October 22-23**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal** *In Faith, With Hope*

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, receives the largest share of the Bishop's Annual Appeal—a total of \$1.8 million has been allocated this year. Thanks to your contribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Catholic Charities can continue to provide quality services to the poor and vulnerable—offering hope to all people in need in our communities.

## **October 29-30**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal** *In Faith, With Hope*

Ministering to those experiencing pain, confusion and fear, and those preparing for death is the role of the clergy assigned to *Hospital Ministry*. They respond to calls at every hour of the day and night providing sacramental and pastoral presence in hospitals and health care facilities throughout the diocese. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this important pastoral ministry.

## **November 5-6**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal** *In Faith, With Hope*

Nothing says “hope” like youthful faces. The *Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry* works collaboratively with parishes to offer a variety of faith experiences that empower young people to live as Disciples of Christ. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this important pastoral ministry. Please prayerfully consider making a gift today.

**November 12-13**

***In Faith, With Hope***  
***Annual Appeal Prayer***

Gracious and Loving God,  
You are the Lord of the past, present and future.  
In this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Diocese of Metuchen,  
open our hearts so that we may discern your will.

Renew our lives  
that we may always reflect your love  
in our encounter with others  
by bringing comfort to the afflicted,  
justice to the poor  
and hope to those in despair

May we be attentive to the needs of all our sisters and brothers  
and the camaraderie we share.

And by the strength of your Spirit,  
may we be inspired to be  
grateful, responsible and generous stewards  
joyfully continuing our mission,  
in faith,  
and with enduring hope.

We ask this in our holy name.

Amen.

**November 19-20**

**2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
***In Faith, With Hope***

We are grateful to every family that has made a gift to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal and know that you will remain faithful to your pledge. If you have not yet made your pledge, it is not too late to do so. Let us remember God's love for us and the grace and blessings of sharing what we have with others.

**November 26-27**

**2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
***In Faith, With Hope***

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal sustains the work of several Diocesan offices and departments that provide the spiritual, pastoral and intellectual formation, as well as practical tools to assist the clergy and lay leaders of the local parishes in areas such as: ***Evangelization, Catechesis, RCIA, Stewardship, and Worship & Liturgical Formation.***

## **December 3-4**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

The *Office of Family Life* empowers families to accept and embrace Catholic values by courageously modeling those values for society by the joyful acceptance of cultural diversity, the compassionate outpouring of love for those who are hurting or in need and for the ongoing affirmation of the dignity of all human life. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports these vital ministries.

## **December 10-11**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Did you know that there's more than one way to give to the Bishop's Annual Appeal? You can:

- Make a pledge and spread out your payments.
- Donate on-line by going to the Diocesan website: [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org).
- Have your donation matched by your company with a Corporate Matching Gift.
- Make a one-time gift.
- Give a gift of appreciated stocks or securities

No matter which way you choose, we thank you. Every gift is appreciated and every gift is important.

## **December 17-18**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

As Christmas nears, you are asked to make a special effort to remember the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. It is a gift, given in faith, that provides enduring hope for thousands of people throughout the Diocese of Metuchen. Please consider making a gift today.

## **December 24-25**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Thank you to the parish families who made a pledge to the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your gift expanded God's work and enriched the lives of our communities and our Catholic faithful.

## **Dec 31-Jan 1**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

The campaign for the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal continues through the spring of 2012, so it's not too late to make a gift. One of the educational ministries your gift helps to support is the *Office of Evangelization*. This office assists in the formation of Parish Evangelization Teams and provides training in both English and Spanish for Bible Study Leaders. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **January 7-8**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

If you have yet to make your gift please do so today! Your gift should be based on your means and circumstances – a private decision between you and God. This past year, thousands of local Catholics received services through Catholic Charities-Diocese of Metuchen. Without the support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal these programs would have to be reduced or in some cases eliminated.

## **January 14-15**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Many people are feeling the impact of these trying economic times. Yet, Christian stewardship invites us to trust...to take a risk...to share what we have with others in the confidence that our heavenly Father will provide us with all that we truly need. It is in this spirit that you are invited to make a sacrificial gift to help our Church meet the many pastoral, educational and charitable needs in our communities – needs that are even greater in these challenging times. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **January 21-22**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

The *Department of Worship & Liturgical Formation* promotes, fosters and supports prayerful worship throughout the Diocese of Metuchen by celebrating vibrant ministries and forming our ministers and people in excellent and uniform standards in accordance with the documents and traditions of the Church. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to sustain this essential ministry.

## **January 28-29**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Our goal is to have 100% participation in the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Annual Appeal with a pledge or one-time gift as your means allow. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## **February 4-5**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Your contribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to sustain the ministry of the *Office of the Diaconate* which extends its efforts in the recruitment, selection and training of men who, through prayer and discernment, have recognized their calling to the permanent diaconate. Please consider making a gift today.

## **February 11-12**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

The RCIA Office supplies resources, support, leadership formation, and consultation services to parishes implementing a Catechumenate process in accord with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is just one of many ministries supported by your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **February 18-19**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Your gift to the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal supports diocesan-sponsored programs that promote Catholic values that enhance human life and spiritual growth, providing families with opportunities for enrichment, education and healing. If you have already made a gift to this year's appeal, thank you! If you haven't done so, your help is still very much needed. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is crucial to our Church's ability to serve God's people in need.

## **February 25-26**

### **2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Faith, With Hope***

Now more than ever, our mission must continue if we are to meet the ever-growing needs of our human family. Although these are challenging economic times, together we can advance the work of the Church through our faithful support, each according to his means. Thank you.

**March 3-4**

**2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
*In Faith, With Hope*

The *Office for Catechesis* works to train and nourish parish leaders and catechists who teach and echo the faith, who build up the life of the worshipping community, and lead others to commit themselves to living our Christian values in everyday life, according to age and ability. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports this vital ministry.

**March 10-11**

**2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
*In Faith, With Hope*

The *Catholic Center at Rutgers University* provides for the spiritual, sacramental and pastoral needs of the Catholic community on campus. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this ministry which plays a vital role in forming the next generation for Church leadership.

## Prayer of the Faithful - Sample Petitions

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*Following are some sample petitions to be included at the Pastor's discretion.*

- That we may see the work of the Bishop's Annual Appeal as an opportunity to extend our love and service beyond the boundaries of our parish and local community ... We pray to the Lord.
- That each of us here today may translate our love for God into good works, responding to the needs of others through a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal... We pray to the Lord.
- For all those in need, that they may find guidance and assistance from the many services available through our generous support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal... We pray to the Lord.
- In thanksgiving for all that the Lord has given to us, may we show our gratitude by sharing with others through our generous gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal... We pray to the Lord.
- That we may spread the gospel message through our good deeds as we generously support the Bishop's Annual appeal as faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us... We pray to the Lord.
- That God may bless our parish, strengthen our faith, and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship by opening our hearts to the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal... We pray to the Lord.
- That the Holy Spirit may continue to guide the work of the Church in our Diocese and that Christ's message of faith, hope and love may be realized by all ... We pray to the Lord.
- That the people of our parish will recognize the Bishop's Annual Appeal as an opportunity to thank God for His goodness and blessings in our lives... we pray to the Lord.
- That we as members of the Catholic Church may unite in justice and love to support the pastoral, educational, and charitable works of the Diocese of Metuchen ... we pray to the Lord.

- That those who have not yet responded to the Bishop's Annual Appeal may hear the call of stewardship and help those in need...we pray to the Lord.
- That we the members of <NAMEOF PARISH> parish recognize the Bishop's Annual Appeal as an opportunity to express our thankfulness to God for all the goodness in our lives ... we pray to the Lord.
- For our Diocesan Church, that our people will show their support for its services, programs and ministries by participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal...we pray to the Lord.
- That through the ministries of <NAME OF PARISH> parish and The Diocese of Metuchen we may deepen our relationship with Christ by following his example of caring and sharing ... we pray to the Lord.
- That all members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Metuchen may hear God's call and respond with fidelity to reach out to others through the Bishop's Annual Appeal...we pray to the Lord.
- That our gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal will be a sacrifice in Christ's name, supportive of the needs of Catholics in our Diocese...we pray to the Lord.
- That the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal may continue to serve with faith, hope and charity...we pray to the Lord.
- That we, through our support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, may carry on the prophetic work of Jesus and bring the Good News of the gospel to all...we pray to the Lord.
- That our generous support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal may further advance the purpose for which Jesus came among us: to preach the Good News, heal human suffering and bring us hope...we pray to the Lord.

# Ways to Give

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## **PLEDGING**

Many people find that they can participate at a sacrificial gift level if they make payments over a period of time. Those who pledge will receive reminders: November 2011, January 2012, February 2012 and March 2012.

## **ON-LINE GIVING**

To make an on-line gift using a credit card or debit card, go to our secure website at [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org).

## **CHECKS**

When writing your check for the complete gift amount or for one pledge payment, make check payable to: ***Diocese of Metuchen – Bishop’s Annual Appeal.***

## **MATCHING GIFTS**

Many companies have matching Gift Programs for charity or educational purposes. Ask your employer’s Human Resource Office for a matching gift application and send it to the Diocese of Metuchen along with your pledge card and check made payable to the qualified entity. For more information, please see our Matching Gift brochure which can be found on our website at [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-2429.

## **GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCKS OR SECURITIES**

Federal tax law allows a charitable deduction for the full market value of the securities on the date of your gift. Please contact the Department of Stewardship & Development at 732-562-2436 for information on making a gift of appreciated stock or securities.

## Bishop's Letter - *English*

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*Bishop Bootkoski's letter is scheduled to be read from the pulpit and published in the bulletin the Weekend of September 23-24. Your parish will receive a hard-copy on Bishop's letterhead by mail and will also receive it electronically in PDF format. The text is provided here as a supplemental resource.*

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Anniversaries offer an opportunity for reflection from a unique vantage point – a place from which we can look back on how far we've come and, at the same time, get a glimpse of the road ahead.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, the Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment by His Holiness John Paul II in 1981. Compared to most dioceses around the country, we are relatively young. Yet, with 30 years behind us, we can boast numerous milestones and accomplishments.

However, with so much work to do, we do not have the luxury of being indifferent; rather, we must continue on our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ with renewed passion and vigor. Together we are called to assist the poor with food, shelter, and clothing; provide for the future of the Church with seminarian education; offer guidance to our youth; and bring Christ's saving message to all people. By supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal, you help to accomplish all of this, and more, through the many and varied diocesan ministries that are sustained by your generosity.

I thank you for your faithful response to the Bishop's Annual Appeal in the past and invite you to prayerfully consider joining me in making a sacrificial gift again this year. By combining our financial resources, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our diocesan Church will flourish for generations to come.

With heartfelt gratitude, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.  
Bishop of Metuchen

## Bishop's Letter - *Spanish*

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Muy estimado hermano o hermana en Cristo:

Cualquier aniversario nos ofrece una oportunidad de reflexionar desde un punto de vista muy específico...un momento histórico desde el cual podemos apreciar cuán lejos hemos caminado y, a la vez, estimar el camino que nos espera recorrer todavía.

El 19 de noviembre de este año la Diócesis de Metuchen celebrará el trigésimo aniversario de su establecimiento por Su Santidad Juan Pablo II en 1981. En comparación con la mayoría de las diócesis en el país el nuestro es relativamente joven. Sin embargo, habiendo ya cumplido una caminata de treinta años, podemos sentirnos orgullosos de numerosos logros.

No obstante, con tanta labor que realizar, no podemos quedarnos descansando e indiferentes; mas bien, tenemos que seguir peregrinando como los discípulos de Jesucristo que somos: con renovados pasión y vigor. Juntos responderemos a la llamada de ofrecer asistencia a los pobres que carecen de comida, de vivienda y de ropa. Nos responsabilizaremos por asegurar el futuro de la iglesia, colaborando con la formación de seminaristas, con la dirección de los jóvenes, y con la predicación del mensaje de salvación para todos. Al responder positivamente a la Campaña Anual del Obispo, usted participará en la realización de todo lo arriba mencionado y, además, ayudará mantener a varios otros importantes ministerios.

Agradezco sinceramente su respuesta favorable a la Campaña Anual del Obispo en el pasado y le invito a que, reflexionando sobre todo esto en oración, se une a mí en hacer el sacrificio de donar generosamente otra vez este año. Al aunar nuestros recursos financieros e, iluminados por el Espíritu Santo, nuestra Iglesia diocesana podrá seguir floreciendo a lo largo de muchas generaciones más.

Agradeciéndole de corazón, yo soy,



Reverendísimo Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.  
Obispo de Metuchen

## Bishop's Letter - Polish

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Drodzy Bracia i Siostry w Chrystusie

Rocznice stwarzają możliwość refleksji z unikalnego punktu widzenia – miejsca, z którego możemy popatrzeć w przeszłość, aby zobaczyć jak daleko doszliśmy oraz w tym samym czasie przelotnie spojrzeć na naszą przyszlą drogę.

19 Listopada tego roku, Diecezja Metuchen będzie celebrować 30tą rocznicę swojego założenia przez Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w 1981 roku. Jesteśmy stosunkowo młodą diecezją w porównaniu do większości innych diecezji w kraju. Możemy się jednak pochwalić wieloma osiągnięciami podczas 30 letniej historii.

Nie możemy pozwolić sobie na luksus bycia obojętnymi w obliczu czekającej nas pracy; musimy kontynuować naszą podróż, jako uczniowie Jezusa Chrystusa ze wzmożoną pasją i wigorem. Razem jesteśmy wezwani do pomocy ubogim, poprzez dostarczenie schronienia, posiłku i ubrania; zapewniając przyszłość dla Kościoła poprzez seminaryjną edukację; poradnie młodzieży oraz szerzenie zbawczego słowa Chrystusa dla wszystkich ludzi. Poprzez poparcie Corocznego Apelu Biskupa pomożesz osiągnąć wszystkie cele a nawet więcej, poprzez różnorodne diecezjalne komórki utrzymywane tylko poprzez twoja szczodrość.

Dziękuję Wam za Waszą wierną odpowiedź na Coroczny Apel Biskupi w poprzednich latach i zapraszam Was do pobożnego rozważenia złożenia ponownej pełnej poświęcenia ofiary w tym roku. Poprzez wspólną ofiarę z przewodnictwem Ducha Świętego, nasza diecezja będzie rozwijać się dla przyszłych generacji.

Z głęboką wdzięcznością

Zawsze oddany w Chrystusie



Paul G. Bootkowski, D.D

Biskup Diecezji Matuchen