



Annual Catholic Appeal

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

TO OUR FAITHFUL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL,

As we begin 2018, we pray for a year filled with peace! I join Bishop DiMarzio in thanking all those who have participated in the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal. We are truly blessed to have the support of so many faithful who are willing to share their blessings with others throughout the Diocese.

Despite the constantly changing financial conditions many find themselves in today, we have received pledges of more than \$8.6 million. As Catholics, we should all be proud of these donations because they greatly impact so many lives.

The Annual Catholic Appeal could not be successful without the outstanding leadership of Bishop DiMarzio. Please join me in thanking the bishop for his stewardship, pastoral guidance and personal commitment to our Diocese and the Appeal. Let me also extend my gratitude to the Pastors' Advisory Committee, including the leadership of former committee chair Rev. Thomas V. Doyle and current committee chair Rev. Msgr. Sean Ogle. My thanks to the entire Annual Catholic Appeal staff and to Rita Damato, who, for decades, worked faithfully on this effort. We also acknowledge the contributions of our Auxiliary Bishops, our Territorial Vicars, Deans, our agency heads and other diocesan officials.

Thanks to Jimmy Austin and the Diocesan Food Corporation, Msgr. Kieran Harrington and all those from De Sales Media, including Ed Wilkinson and the staff of The Tablet and Currents. Thanks to Joanne Weiss for her coordination between the Office of the Bishop and the Annual Catholic Appeal Office as well as to Deacon Jaime Varela for his help in so many ways.

A special thank you to those who translated our campaign materials into the different languages of our diocese and to Ellen La Carrubba of the Catholic Migration Office, who worked with our various Apostolates to make this happen. We also acknowledge our clergy, religious, seminarians and all involved in ministerial works for the inspiration and hope that they offer.

Special thanks to our pastors, their associates, their parish secretaries and Appeal teams for distributing the solicitation packets, communicating the Appeal's impact, and inspiring people to give.

We ask that you not only renew your call to discipleship, but that you invite others to do so with you, allowing the church to improve the quality of life for even more people in 2018. As we continue to plan and rebuild for a greater future for our Diocese throughout the year, I know that if we do it together, we can be successful.

Let us pray for strength and compassion to meet the needs of those less fortunate and those that have been affected by tragedy. Please know that you and your loved ones will be remembered in my prayers – please remember me in yours!

In Christ's Peace,

Rev. Monsignor Jamie J. Gigantiello
Vicar for Development and
Executive Director
Office of Parish Giving and
Annual Catholic Appeal

