My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our theme for the 2017 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, “Love Your Neighbor As Yourself,” reminds us to actively share God’s bountiful love with all of those around us.

As we look to this year’s Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, please reflect on your personal experiences of God’s love, and participate again, or for the first time, in this year’s Appeal. It is through your generosity that the ministries funded by this campaign are able to thrive and help more people experience God’s unfailing love for them.

I invite you to learn more about the work of our Office of Vocations and how they walk with those called to the priesthood or religious life. Read about the work being done to bridge cultural divides, efforts to strengthen our families, and programs to help our neighbors in need. These tangible examples show the important work being done in central and north Georgia – only made possible by your generous donations to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful giving and support of our community. May you be blessed beyond measure for all your goodness!

Gratefully in Christ,

[Archbishop's signature]

Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta

Donate securely online: appeal.archatl.com
FAQs about Giving

What is the 2017 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal?
The Archdiocese of Atlanta conducts an annual campaign (as is the case in most dioceses in the United States) to help fund the work of its offices and ministries throughout north and central Georgia. The Appeal commences in January and concludes in December of 2017. The Appeal will include an in-pew pledge process usually held on the two weekends prior to Ash Wednesday.

What is the in-pew process and why are we using it?
The in-pew process is designed to reach parishioners directly in their seats at Mass. Parishioners will be directed through the process step-by-step by the pastor or his designee as representatives of the Archbishop. It is used because it gives parishioners who may not be registered in a parish or who did not respond to the Archbishop’s letter an opportunity to participate.

Why should people give?
We should give because we are grateful for the gifts that God has given us in our lives and because of the great good that our giving brings to the world.

I already support my parish. Isn’t that enough?
The Annual Appeal provides the opportunity to support our wider Church family, the Archdiocese of Atlanta, as well as our own parish ministries. When we say the Creed, we reaffirm the fact that we are members of the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.” We are saying that we believe that every parish and every parishioner is responsible not only for his or her parish, but also for the well-being of the Church throughout the archdiocese and the world.

What should I give to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal?
Jesus Himself gave us a guideline, “Share from your substance, not from your surplus.” You are the best judge of what this means for you—not just what you can afford, but what God is calling you to do. We do offer a guide—at least one percent of your income to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, five percent to your parish, and four percent to other charities and/or second collections, but always giving according to your means.

How will my gift benefit the parishes outside of metropolitan Atlanta?
The offices of the archdiocese are available to provide support to all parishes regardless of location. The Archbishop’s Annual Appeal funded the education of priests currently serving in your parish. Catechists who are teaching the children of your parish receive training and support through our Office of Formation and Discipleship. Engaged couples receive pre-marital counseling retreats. All of these are examples of the wide variety of services provided by archdiocesan offices and ministries to parishes and parishioners across the archdiocese.
Ministries & Offices Supported by the

Ministerial - $3,180,000
- Seminarian Education: 2,100,000
- Permanent Diaconate: 330,000
- Priest Support and Retirement Care: 640,000
- Priest Continuing Formation: 110,000

Pastoral Outreach - $1,680,000
- Life, Dignity and Justice
  - Respect Life Ministry: 115,000
  - Peace and Justice Ministries: 115,000
  - Prison and Jail Ministry: 115,000
  - Disabilities Ministry: 115,000
- Intercultural and Ethnic Diversity: 320,000
- Youth and Child Protection: 110,000
- Hospital Ministry: 50,000
- Metropolitan Tribunal: 420,000
- Parish and Mission Support: 265,000
- Cemeteries: 50,000

Education, Formation and Discipleship - $2,140,000
- Under-Resourced School Support: 500,000
- Parish Pre-School Programs: 50,000
- Campus Ministry: 535,000
- Religious Education: 275,000
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry: 225,000
- Marriage and Family Ministry: 225,000
- Eucharistic Congress: 165,000

Catholic Charities - $500,000
- Refugee Resettlement Services: 150,000
- Immigration Services: 150,000
- Family Stabilization: 200,000
  - Veterans Case Management
  - Housing Counseling
  - Foreclosure Intervention
  - English Language Instruction
  - Counseling

Administrative Costs - $500,000

Goal — $8,000,000

Donate Online Securely: appeal.archatl.com
A donation to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal supports those who hear and act upon God’s call through the Office of Vocations. This vital office provides support and resources to all those discerning a call to the priesthood and religious life, including walking with the over 60 men currently in seminarian formation.

Knowing Our Faith

Building Strong Catholic Families
Katherine Angulo
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Office of Formation & Discipleship

Though usually referring to resuscitating someone’s heart, CPR in this case represents Catholic Parent Revival and jump starts straight to the heart of the family - the parents. As a program of the National Catholic Youth Ministry’s Strong Catholic Families Initiative, Katherine Angulo, the Archdiocese of Atlanta’s Associate Director of Youth Ministry, has worked nationally to debut the program to Spanish-speaking parents in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, providing parents with a time to pray, be encouraged, and leave with renewed hope in God and their family.

“Catholic Parent Revival is a time to lift up family issues and learn to pray for your family.”
—Katherine Angulo

Spreading/Keeping the Faith

The Office of Vocations
Fr. Tim Hepburn
Director of Vocations

As Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, one of the many roles of Fr. Tim Hepburn is to help ensure that the archdiocese has well-formed priests, genuinely responding to the call to serve the Catholic Church of central and north Georgia. With one-third of the current seminarians coming from other countries, Fr. Hepburn works to recruit and support men locally and beyond to best serve all of the people in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

“In my role as Vocations Director, I get a front row seat to watch God’s amazing work in people’s lives. I get to sit with people as they tell me what God is doing for them. It’s an incredible job.” —Fr. Tim Hepburn
The Evolution of Our Parishes

Thomas Fagbamiye
Office of Intercultural and Ethnic Diversity

Coming from Nigeria to Atlanta in 1985, Thomas Fagbamiye believes that each person has something unique to bring to the Eucharistic celebration of the Church. Focused on cultural skill building, Thomas recently completed a six-week online course in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Atlanta’s Office of Intercultural and Ethnic Diversity and the University of Dallas. Entitled “Weaving Together a Culturally Diverse Church,” the course seeks to help leaders like Thomas become bridge-builders between diverse cultures in their communities.

“The Church is universal. The Eucharist is the same in every language.” –Thomas Fagbamiye

Love your neighbor as yourself
Leviticus 19:18

Living Our Faith

Service as a Family

The Faas Family: Mark and Jenn Faas; Delaney (14), Logan (11), Kerrigan (8), Patrick (+), Charlie (1)
St. James the Apostle
Justice & Peace Ministries

For Mark and Jenn Faas, parishioners at St. James the Apostle in McDonough, teaching their children the importance of helping others is a vital part of living their Catholic faith. Through their participation in Starve Wars at the Archdiocese of Atlanta’s Eucharistic Congress, sponsored by Justice & Peace Ministries and Catholic Relief Services, Mark, Jenn, and their live children ages 1 to 14, were able to pack meals together. While scooping rice, sealing bags, dancing, and wearing hair nets, the Faas family joined approximately 500 others from more than 50 parishes across the archdiocese in completing and packing 100,000 meals to be sent to Burkina Faso in West Africa.

“It’s a fun way to do something to help others. People can die of starvation. You could save people’s lives.” –Logan Faas, 11
FAQs about Parish Goals and Rebates

How is each parish goal determined?
Each parish goal is eight percent of offertory from the fiscal year that ended 1½ years prior to the start of the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal.

What happens if my parish reaches its goal?
One hundred percent of any money collected over goal is returned to the parish assessment-free. Ninety percent is sent to the parish and ten percent is allocated to the parish endowment at the Catholic Foundation of North Georgia.

What happens if we don’t reach our goal?
If a parish does not reach its goal in collected money, it must make up the shortfall from parish operating funds.

2017 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal Giving Levels

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archbishop’s Circle*</td>
<td>$20,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor*</td>
<td>$10,000 - $19,999.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron*</td>
<td>$5,000 - $9,999.99</td>
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<td>Supporter*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle of Faith</td>
<td>$1,000 - $1,499.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle of Hope</td>
<td>$500 - $999.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle of Mercy</td>
<td>$250 - $499.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Archdiocese</td>
<td>Up to $249.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Lumen Christi Society

Those giving levels indicated with an asterisk (*) above are recognized as Lumen Christi Society Members. These are women and men whose examples of stewardship stand as a shining example before Christ.

At the Easter Vigil Mass, after the new fire has been blessed outside the church, the Lumen Christi is the candle that brings light from the new fire of Christ to the Paschal Candle. Christ calls us to be the light of the world:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Mt 5:14-16
90 parishes and 14 missions enriching over 1,000,000 Catholics, 214 diocesan priests and 75 religious priests, 
70 women and men religious, 
260 permanent deacons, 
56 seminarians. 11,642 students are being served in our 15 archdiocesan elementary schools, 3 archdiocesan high schools, 
7 independent Catholic schools. 
46,088 students in parish religious education programs and 15 college campus ministries.

Outreach and evangelization to over 7 million people in north and central Georgia.

This is a sample pledge card. You will be given an opportunity to join in support of the 2017 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal at your parish on Commitment Weekend, February 18-19, 2017. 
Donate Online Securely: appeal.archatl.com
Make your pledge on Commitment Weekend, February 18-19, 2017

Small monthly payments can add up to a sizeable gift. You may make a pledge on Commitment Weekend and pay in up to 10 monthly installments.

All pledges must be paid by Dec. 31, 2017. We will send you monthly reminders.

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