



# Diocese of Springfield

## Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Deuteronomy, we are told to “Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so...” Great numbers of you across the Diocese of Springfield have a tradition of giving liberally to the Annual Catholic Appeal, and I thank you.

Today, I am writing about the 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal. We can all think of reasons not to give, but in fact, there are far more reasons to lend your support to the thousands of lives that benefit from your gift. Your dollar supports a wide range of ministries assisting those in need from before birth through old age, in good times and in bad. The Appeal was initiated in 1959 in order to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. It would not be possible to carry out His work without your assistance.

For example, your donation will be used to provide services to at-risk young people, giving them a place to go after school for educational support. Your dollars help agencies such as the Gray House, Providence Ministries, Take and Eat and others provide nourishing meals during the week and on weekends to our neighbors who most need them. Funds from the Appeal are used to bring faith and hope to those in prison through the Residents Encounter Christ program in Hampden and Berkshire counties.

“Neighbor Helping Neighbor” is the theme we are continuing for this year's Appeal. While it is a simple theme, it says much about what we do as Church, and who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Appeal provides us with an opportunity to undertake the corporal works of mercy and to share God's gifts to us with brothers and sisters in need. Without your support, many critical services would not be possible. It is because of your generosity that the Diocese has been able to assist elderly persons in need, families in crisis, people who are homeless, youth and young adults, our parishes and our Catholic schools.

I invite you once again to join with me, with your pastor, and with your brothers and sisters in Christ, to serve as an example of Christian Stewardship by making a gift of financial support to the 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal. Your generous donations, which may be made as a one-time cash gift, credit card payment or a pledge paid over the next eight months, will assist our Church in carrying out the work begun by Jesus Christ.

Please review the enclosed materials which outline the critical services that you help to make possible. Please, help me with your abundant generosity to aid our brothers and sisters by continuing the tradition... “Neighbor Helping Neighbor”

God bless you and all you hold dear. You are in my prayers - please keep me in yours.

In Christ,

Most Rev. Timothy A. McDonnell, D.D.  
Bishop of Springfield