

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“The Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal”

This weekend we mark the “kick-off” of the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). This collection taken up through out all 99 Parishes of the Diocese is seeking to raise, as in past recent years, \$2.5 million.

The \$2.5 million contributed by all the Parishes of the Diocese supports the mission of our local church, the Church of San Diego, through “Education in the Faith,” “Priestly Ministry,” and “Catholic Charities.

In support of the ACA, the Church of St. Thomas More will contribute \$20,000 as its fair share for 2004. As a benefit to our Parish, the Diocese will return to us all funds collected over and above our goal amount.

This year, as last year, funds received over our goal amount will go toward the purchase of 5 additional acres of land adjacent to our Parish Campus. This land is an important element in our total build-out plan for additional parking (which is already needed), and athletic fields for the parish and its school.

The purchase of this land has the support of the Parish Finance and Development Councils and the Diocese of San Diego. We continue in negotiations. The purchase has not yet been accomplished. In the event that negotiations fail, and the land is not purchased, then all money raised for this purpose, from last year and this year, will be directed to the Building fund in order to help lower our debt.

Last year, only 267 Households out of a possible 1,055 supported the Annual Catholic Appeal. We raised \$52,627.50. Last year's parish fair share was \$17,000. So the \$35,627.50 over and above our fair share amount was returned to the Parish and is set aside in a special account for the land purchase.

Imagine what could be raised if more households would see the ACA as a responsibility to support? Imagine if all the Parish Households would make a pledge/gift to the ACA?

My hope is that more of our Parish Households will feel a responsibility to support the ACA, which funds many necessary activities and “outreach” programs of our local Church, the Diocese of San Diego. In doing so, these Households will not only support the ministries of the Diocese, but also, the ongoing development of our Parish Campus.

This week all registered Households will receive a letter from me along with a brochure outlining the Annual Catholic Appeal and an envelope for you to return with your pledge/gift.

I am asking that every Household make a pledge/gift. No amount is too small. Your gift will help the ministries of our local Church here in San Diego and will benefit our Parish as we continue to make real our dreams.

In advance, I thank you for your generosity!

F. Mike