

Pastor's Column

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Annual Catholic Appeal—2010—Our Life is Mission

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is now under way throughout the 98 Parishes of the Diocese of San Diego. This year's goal is \$3 million and is \$500,000 more than last year.

The increase of money will be directed to help inner city parishes and schools—a very noble cause!

Our “fair share” assessment this year is \$43,000. Please be mindful that this is an assessment and not just a goal. If we do not raise this \$43,000 through the ACA donations, the Parish will need to cover the balance from our Operations Budget.

All proceeds raised over and above the \$43,000 will be returned to the Parish. This past year our assessment was \$34,000 and we collected over \$43,000.

A little over \$9,000 was returned to the Parish and the money was directed into our Operations Budget.

As you can see, if we are to be as successful this year, we will need more households to make a pledge or give a gift. Last year, only 320 households out of a possible 1,000 supported the ACA. I know that we can be more positive in our Parish response.

The ACA money is directed to six ongoing programs in our Diocese:

1. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese. It assists approximately one million people each year by providing a network of very important programs and services.

2. **Priestly & Religious Vocations:** To accomplish our mission, we continue to need dedicated priests and religious. Money is well spent in promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life and in the formation of candidates.
3. **Parishes & Schools in Need:** Some of our parishes and parochial schools struggle financially and need our assistance to provide basic facilities and programs.
4. **Marriage & Family Life:** Contemporary society poses fundamental challenges to the meaning, purpose, and value of marriage and family life. We have made it a priority to provide good programs of preparation for marriage and for marriage and family enrichment.
5. **Youth & Young Adults:** We are attempting to offset the negative influences which bombard our youth and young adults today by fostering efforts and offering programs which will promote their human and spiritual growth and development.
6. **Religious Education:** Time, talent, and treasure are needed to offer culturally sensitive evangelization and systematic catechesis to all Catholics, whether children, youth, or adults, and to reach out to those interested in becoming Catholics.

My “love letter” to each household is in the mail. I urge you to please make the ACA part of your charitable giving this year!

F. Mike