

Called to Serve

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 9, 2014

Pastor's Column

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The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)—Time to “Pay It Forward”

This week we will begin this year's Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). “Love letters” from me will be in the mail this week.

Please take time to read and reflect on this information. I pray that it will move you to this Appeal. This year's goal is \$3.5 million.

As we, the Parish of St. Thomas More, have been helped by the Diocese, it is now our time to help our Diocese and our sister Parishes.

If you have not supported the ACA in the past, this is the year to begin to do so. If you have supported the ACA in the past, and you are in a position to increase your gift, this is the year to do so.

Here are some facts and figures that are important information for you to have as you reflect upon your gift to the ACA.

Know that all that you do is much appreciated by me!

DID YOU KNOW?

LOOKING BACK

The Diocese of San Diego **gifted** our Parish with the original **ten acres of land** on which our Parish campus is being built. It has been the policy of the Diocese to provide the land for new Parishes to build their campuses.

The Diocese of San Diego provided St. Thomas More Parish with a **\$2 million interest-free loan** to help us build our Parish Center, which we paid off in December 2011.

The Diocese of San Diego is providing St. Thomas More Parish with a **\$5.6 million loan** that allows us to move forward and build our Permanent Church and Parish Offices. Due to our good financial standing and support of the Diocese, the Bishop granted us many exemptions to the loan policy that allows us to build in the favorable present economy.

The goal of this year's ACA is **\$3.5 million**. The money will be directed for these purposes:

• Catholic Schools Emergency Fund	\$400,000
• Marriage & Family Life	\$200,000
• Imperial Valley Parish Development	\$1,000,000
• Vocations for Priests & Religious Life	\$555,000
• Catholic Charities	\$500,000
• Education in Faith	\$845,000

PAYING IT FORWARD

Our **Fair Share Assessment** this year is **\$48,000**. This provides us with the opportunity to “pay it forward,” not only to assist the ongoing mission of Jesus on a Diocesan level, but also to directly help sister Parishes that are in need.

Last year, **383 STM households** supported the ACA. I know we can **double** the number of households participating this year.

Last year, we raised **\$51,000** with an average gift of **\$133**.

All money raised over the \$48,000 assessment will be returned to our Parish and directed to our Operating Budget to ensure that we continue to balance our bottom line.

Fr. Mike