**DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2018** Sample letter from the Pastor

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Doe,

 ***Will you walk together with our parishioners in the light of Christ?***

As your pastor, I appreciate all you do for our parish. Your gifts of time and service and your financial contributions allow us to provide wonderful ministries to our people and maintain our Church and facilities.

I am grateful also for your support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your generosity helps so many vital ministries that benefit our brothers and sisters in Christ in our parish and throughout the Diocese.

 These ministries teach, heal, and feed those who hunger in body, mind and spirit, and serve all those who come to the Catholic Church for assistance. Your gifts to the Appeal help Catholic Social Services offer food pantries, shelters for the homeless and the working poor, counsel individuals and families to obtain financial assistance and respond to Veterans’ needs.

Through the Appeal, priests you know who have given their lives to the Church receive housing and medical care in their retirement; young men who will serve as future priests obtain seminary education, and the Catholic faith is passed on to our children in our parishes and schools.

Today, I ask you to consider renewing your support to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Responding to the Appeal means being a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is the expression of God’s command to love one another. I urge you to join me and your fellow parishioners in this wonderful work God calls us to embrace.

Please make your pledge today by using the response envelope enclosed. Should we surpass our parish Appeal goal, 75% of the funds over goal are returned back to the parish for our use.

You have been generous to the Annual Appeal in the past. I pray that you will open your heart again this year. Thank you in the name of all those who will benefit from your kindness. May God bless you and your family.

 Sincerely Yours in Christ,

***Give and gifts will be given to you; overflowing…***

***For the measure with which you measure will in turn be measured out to you.” Luke 6:38***