



Hello, everyone. We're writing to you today as the Regional Chairs for the 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal. The Appeal is doing better this year and we thank all of you who have already contributed generously. We've not yet reached our goal, though, and so we would like to make one more appeal on behalf of the Appeal!

We're writing this while we are still in Ordinary Time which Sr. Joan Chittester calls the period during which we learn "the fine art of Christian Living." And last Sunday we heard our Lord teach us that "...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Good deeds are part of "the fine art of Christian living!"

The Annual Appeal is full of good deeds and a wonderful opportunity to show our love for our neighbors; our seminarians, who we need now more than ever; our kids in Catholic schools, who are formed in the faith so they can grow in faith; our priests, who nurture all of us in Christ; our parishes, who keep us together as a family; and our poor, who need our funding and the love that accompanies it.

These neighbors deserve our support and, in many cases, truly depend on it. That's why we have responded to Bishop Bambara's request to support the Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made an Appeal gift, we invite you to join us now.

Ordinary Time leads us to the great penitential season of Lent. During Lent, we're asked to especially practice three of the most ancient disciplines of the Church: one directed to God – prayer; one directed to ourselves – fasting; and one directed to others – almsgiving. We wonder if you might consider joining us in this last discipline, almsgiving, by making either your first gift or by renewing a gift to the Annual Appeal?

Perhaps it could be the money you save by not buying the candy you give up (a tidy sum for one of us who is writing to you) or something as simple as a dollar a day for the forty days of Lent. Any amount you choose will be a big help. It's easy to do online or by mail or simply by putting an envelope in the collection that is marked for the Appeal.

Thanks very much for taking the time to read this letter. We have God's work to do here on Earth and the Annual Appeal is God's work. Thank you for joining in it.

Peace and blessings,

*John and Joan Schoonover*

Epiphany Parish, Sayre

Annual Appeal Regional Co-Chairs, Bradford, Sullivan & Susquehanna Counties