



Hi Everyone! My name is Maureen Bender and my husband, Bill, and I are honored to serve this year as the chairs of the Diocesan Annual Appeal for Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties. I am writing this today to ask for your support!

For those of you that have already contributed ... Thank You!

For those of you who haven't yet made a gift, I would like to ask you to kindly consider making an Appeal contribution so that we may continue to serve all those in need in our Diocese.

If you are reading this, you are probably sitting in your beautiful Church ... a Church that you love ... a Church that is home to you. You probably are dressed comfortably, and your stomach is full. You come to Mass every Sunday because you are a good Catholic. Every week we sit in these pews and we listen to the word of Jesus. Every week he tells us to love one another ... to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to take care of the poor and less fortunate ... to love our neighbors! A donation to the Annual Appeal is our opportunity to live the Gospels. This is our opportunity to do as Jesus asks us to do.

Bishop Bambera is asking us for our help in order to serve the neediest portion of our society. Consider donating whatever you feel comfortable giving – \$10, \$25 ... any amount is welcome. It's more important that we participate. Did you know that nearly 70% of the parishioners who donate to the appeal make gifts between \$5 and \$100?

By making a gift of any amount, you are saying you want to help. You are saying you believe in our Catholic faith. You are saying that you want to help our Church survive.

So, I ask you to please contribute to the Annual Appeal...every gift is very much appreciated. If you no longer have an Appeal envelope, there may be Appeal pledge envelopes in the back of your church or you may just put your gift in a plain envelope marked with Annual Appeal on the front and drop it in the Sunday collection. Let's show that we do care, that we are loving and giving, faithful people and that we do choose to live out the Gospels.

Thank you so much for reading this and for considering an Appeal donation.

Sincerely,

Maureen Bender

St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola
Annual Appeal Regional Co-Chair, Lackawanna & Wyoming Counties