

TGA benefits are far-reaching

It is my pleasure to invite you and all of the people of our diocese to participate in our annual Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal. It hardly seems possible that this is the 19th time I have made this invitation to you. Yet, it has been that many years since we began directly appealing to you to support our common work as a diocesan community. Since its inception the TGA has replaced an earlier annual tax on the ordinary revenue of all of our parishes.

During the next three weeks, information about the TGA will be made available to you in the mail, the *Catholic Courier* and in church on Sunday. It is not possible in any one of these media fully to tell the story of the good done by the revenues generated by the TGA. Nor is it possible for me to do that in this short column.

I can tell you that you can be proud of the work it does. You can also be certain that we take very seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of what you offer. It is our goal always to use your gifts to strengthen our ability to grow in the faith and to give as

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

strong a witness as we can to our common call to stand with those in need.


That is why you will note in TGA materials so many references to works such as faith formation, youth ministry, the services of Catholic Charities, technology for effective communication and education for ministry. We are trying to live out the pastoral directions and priorities that began in our Synod and have flowed from our common labors since then. Your generosity and the commitment of thousands of people in all parts of our diocese enable us to bring healthy resources to our continuing efforts

to respond to real pastoral questions and to meet real human needs.


When I make out my pledge card later this week I will do so only after remembering the names and faces of people I meet through the year whom you have helped. They thank me for what you do to help them to heal, to grow, to learn, to cope, to celebrate, to worship, to teach and to serve. Such moments come frequently and never leave me without the wish that you could be there to hear their words. I know you would be gratified by the experience and encouraged to continue to support the TGA.

I thank you for considering my request to offer a gift to this year's TGA. I know that you have many obligations and that this request is not the only one that puts a claim on your financial resources. But in keeping with our TGA theme, "We are given to share," I hope you would consider your gift to be both an expression of your faith and a sign of your commitment to the life of our Catholic community.

Peace to all.



Your gift to the Thanks Giving Appeal helps maintain essential programs and services that strengthen our faith community. Last year, thanks to generous support of TGA, more than 3,200 young people attended spiritual retreats. Urban parishes continued vital ministries thanks to grants that subsidize meaningful programs. And 780 adults joined our community of faith through the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Please give to the **Thanks Giving Appeal** and share the gifts God has given you.



Thanks Giving Appeal 2000-2001

To make a gift or for more information, contact the Thanks Giving Appeal Office at 328-3210 ext. 276, or write Thanks Giving Appeal • Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester • 1150 Buffalo Road • Rochester, NY 14624-1890.


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