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Bishop of Rochester

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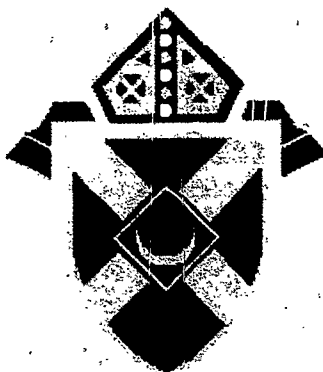
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PARTNERS IN FAITH

Campaign Report

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

5 Supplement to the Catholic Courier | August 2004

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Just over 16 months ago, the Diocese of Rochester publicly launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history. I am pleased to report that our campaign generated gifts from approximately 30,000 households and raised nearly \$56 million, exceeding our goal by more than 10 percent.

Partners in Faith is a very important endeavor designed to strengthen important ministries and programs in our diocese and to help ensure the vitality of our local church for decades to come. Despite the great importance of *Partners in Faith*, it was a less than ideal time to ask for charitable gifts. The economy was struggling, our nation was at war, and the very painful sexual abuse scandal within our church dominated the news.

That we surpassed such a lofty goal is a testament to the loving and generous nature of the wonderful people of our diocese. I am humbled and awed by your capacity for giving and for caring, even in the most difficult times. I take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to our request. By doing so, you've enhanced our ability to minister to the educational, pastoral and charitable needs of Catholics throughout our 12 counties.

Also I must thank the pastors and pastoral administrators throughout our diocese for their support. Similarly, the campaign would not have been a success had not thousands of lay volunteers come forward to provide help, visiting with their friends and neighbors to explain the good work made possible by their gifts. The name chosen for this effort did not come randomly; it certainly represented the union of parish and diocese, of lay and ordained, as true partners in faith.

As partners, all of us will benefit from the fruits of our labor and the generous response of our donors. As you will recall, 50 percent of the funds raised through the parishes were to be returned to the parishes for use in their own designated projects. This disbursement process has already begun.

The intent of this special report is to fulfill our obligations as stewards of your gracious gifts. You will be able to see the results from each parish, and how much has been returned to the parish to date. In addition, we have highlighted just a few of the many good works being done at the parish level with funds raised through *Partners in Faith*.

Again, thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity. As always, I will continue to pray for you and wish you much joy and peace.

With every best wish, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

✠ Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

