



Thank You

Two simple words but filled with immense sincerity. When we launched the Bishop's Appeal just over a year ago, we had high aspirations, as always, but with little foresight of what the year would bring to affect the appeal's success. No doubt the challenges, especially these past three months, have been far reaching, but our steadfast and devoted parishioners stayed the course and invested generously in the work of the Diocese for the benefit of all the faithful in our 126 parishes across 14 counties. Your gifts have allowed us to serve our parishes and partner with them in serving all of you.

Thank you...

I am also pleased to announce that the new Diocesan Appeal year has kicked off with the theme inspired by the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians: "**For we walk by faith, not by sight.**" Faith has likely never seemed so universally important as it does today and with it, greater appreciation for the value of church and its ministries. In an effort to be mindful of the stresses on staff and resources at the parish level — and to ensure that more of your gift can go directly toward our ministries — the Diocesan Appeal will now be managed principally by the Diocese of Albany's Office of Stewardship & Development. Through your gift, in partnership with your parish, the Diocese will be able to continue to serve you and our faith communities. Be on the lookout in your mail in the coming weeks for your Diocesan Appeal materials or go to www.rcda.org/offices/stewardship where you can make a pledge for later fulfillment or a recurring or one-time gift via credit card. With your prayerful planning, these gifts can be a true investment in our Catholic community locally and for the greater Diocese.

I thank you, dear friends, and ask God to abundantly bless you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Edward B. Scharfenberger

Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D.
Bishop of Albany