



Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
627 East 187th Street
Bronx, New York 10458
718.295.3770

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOSÉ FÉLIX ORTEGA

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ALMSGIVING

Charity or almsgiving is one of the means that the Church recommends to us during Lent together with prayer and fasting. In the very beginning of Christianity, the first communities would have collections to take care of the others in need. St. Paul in his letters many times refers to the collections for the widows and orphans of the Church in Jerusalem. To give to others is not easy. It represents a sacrifice as we are giving something that we have, that we earned and that we could use for many things and for our necessities. That is precisely why it has spiritual value as it represents giving love and giving with love.

Every year during Lent we have an excellent and unique opportunity to participate in the Cardinal's Appeal from the Archdiocese of New York. This year the Appeal is marking 40 years. For forty years, many Catholics, you included, helped the Cardinal of New York to keep our parishes open, to form our seminarians, to take care of the retired and sick priests, to help in the Catechesis of our children and adults.

This past year has not been easy for our Cardinal in New York with the scandals and pressure from politicians and others. One way to tell him that we are with him and we love our Church and our Archdiocese is through our participation in the Cardinal's Appeal. It is understandable that not everyone can participate in the same way, as income and needs are very different, but we all can participate. It would be wonderful if all the families of our parish participate in some way.

In Lent, we are invited to give, as we are ready to celebrate God's love and mercy through which He gave His only Son to save us from our sins. Let's give, let's participate in this Cardinal's Appeal with love and generosity.

God bless,
Father José Félix