

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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April 22, 2019

*Monday Within the Octave of Easter*

Dear Friends in the Risen Christ,

May the Lord give you His peace.

I write to gently remind you to participate in this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal. Please allow me to share why this is an important part of our ministry as a parish.

As a Catholic and as a priest, I believe that participation in the Annual Diocesan Appeal is about more than fundraising or supplementing ministry budgets. The Gospel calls us all to be faithful stewards of God's gifts to us. The Annual Diocesan Appeal gives us an opportunity to share some of those gifts with our brothers and sisters in the local Church of Fort Worth.

This appeal helps to provide education and formation for our seminarians and permanent deacons. It provides assistance to our rural parishes for youth ministry, faith formation, and much more. The Appeal helps to provide tuition assistance for Catholic schools throughout the Diocese, as well as help fund programs for Catholic Campus Ministry at universities like Midwestern State University. It supports Respect Life Programs, Catholic Charities poverty assistance, Marriage and Family Life programs, and so much more.

Each of these ministries is ultimately for the spiritual good of all who receive their benefits. Attending to the needs of others helps them to experience their dignity as being loved in the image and likeness of God. Catholic Education and Faith Formation are not only for the good of the members of the Church, but for the common good of society as a whole. We are forming minds and hearts to be of service to our neighbor according to the precepts of the Gospel, that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I understand you may have questions about the Appeal, and even about the work of the Advancement Foundation, which promotes stewardship and garners support for the parishes, schools, and ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. The Advancement Foundation ensures that 100% of funds raised through the Annual Diocesan Appeal will be used exclusively for the needs described in the promotional materials. Please visit their website to learn more:

*[www.advancementfoundation.org](http://www.advancementfoundation.org).*

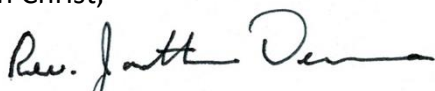
**I am asking all families of Sacred Heart to please participate in the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Gifts may be received in the form of a pledge, a one-time gift, or a monthly recurring gift.** No gift is too small. In Jesus' eyes, the widow's mite was a greater sacrifice than any other contribution. The

important part is the love that we offer in the sacrifice, and true love requires action. Please feel free to give something according to your own ability.

The theme of this year's Appeal is *The Eucharist Makes Us the Church*. As I mentioned in my first weekend at Sacred Heart, all good things flow from Christ, who generously feeds us with His Body and Blood in the sacrifice of the Mass. We are sent from the Eucharist to love one another, and we return to the altar in thanksgiving for His love for us. Our belief in the Real Presence is part of what makes us uniquely Catholic in our faith. Please join me in helping others participate in and experience that faith. Please support these ministries that help all our brothers and sisters in our communities experience the love of Christ through our service to them.

During this season of Easter, I thank you for your time and your consideration of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. May God bless you, and may we be truly thankful for the ways He continues to be present to us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Jonathan Demma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fr. Jonathan Demma

Parochial Administrator, Sacred Heart Catholic Church