



A²⁰¹⁷ Annual Appeal

Building Our Family of Faith

Catholic Diocese of Richmond

2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal:
Building Our Family of Faith

The Difference Between *Living Our Mission* and the Annual Appeal

Although there are similar ministries and programs supported by both the *Living Our Mission* campaign and the Annual Appeal, there is a distinct difference. The *Living Our Mission* campaign was a historic first-time effort to build major endowments and capital to support our parishes and larger Church leading into the future. Although many projects were realized in the short-term, the vast majority of funds raised were designed for the **future**. In contrast, the Annual Diocesan Appeal is initiated every year to meet ministry and program needs of the **present**. While the *Living Our Mission* campaign was an overwhelming success and set our Church up for a strong financial future, the Annual Appeal is still a very necessary component of meeting our goals in the short-term. That is why we are asking for your prayerful support of a pledge or gift to the 2017 Annual Appeal.

During the week of February 13th, many of you will receive a letter from Bishop DiLorenzo asking for your support of the 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal. It is our sincere hope that you will answer our Bishop's request and make a generous pledge to this effort.

Strengthening Our Parishes Through the *Living Our Mission* Campaign
An Excerpt from the Upcoming Living Our Mission Annual Report

Parishes are realizing profound and long-term benefits from the *Living Our Mission* capital and endowment campaign. The parishes will retain the majority of the funds raised, an estimated \$64,967,000 of the nearly \$103,952,000 raised, or 62.5%. To date, the Diocese has returned over \$26,168,831 to the parishes through nine rounds of funding.

Parishes will use these funds in a variety of ways, including local construction projects, ministries, endowments and debt reduction. The key statistics below highlight how parishes are using their *Living Our Mission* money:

- ❖ 139 parishes plan to use the money raised for construction or repairs
- ❖ 42 parishes will fund ministries and outreach programs
- ❖ 23 parishes are saving for the future by placing funds into endowments
- ❖ 16 parishes allocated funds to reduce debt

Parish Construction and Repair Projects – By The Numbers:

- ❖ \$55,432,000 of the money raised is for new construction or repairs to existing buildings (The true impact is even larger. The actual cost of construction in the 139 parishes approaches \$77 million.)
- ❖ \$9,172,000 is the largest construction project funded by the campaign - - St. Bede, Williamsburg
- ❖ 23 parish construction projects exceed \$1 million
- ❖ 13 parishes are building new churches or making significant renovations to worship space
- ❖ 6 parishes addressed emergency repairs to their building

As may be seen from the highlights above, the *Living Our Mission* campaign is providing critical funding in strategic ways. Income from the larger endowments of the Church provide a stable source of support for our clergy and other ministries which reduces the reliance on parish assessments - - a direct benefit to the parishes.

“If it weren’t for the *Living Our Mission* campaign, new and/or increased parish assessments would have been needed in order to address these financial challenges,” stated Michael J. McGee, Diocesan Chief Financial Officer.

Overall, this effort has brought about stronger parishes and a stronger Diocese - - better positioned to advance the mission, through Word, Worship, Community and Service.