

SACRED HEART PARISH

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April 2002

Dear Friends,

In the spring of 1942, Bishop James Connolly appealed to the good people of the Diocese of Fall River to help meet the needs of thousands of men, women and children in Southeast Massachusetts. For the past sixty-one years, the Catholic Charities Appeal has been dedicated to serving the needy among us without regard to race, creed, nationality or gender. Last year, tens of thousands of our friends and neighbors in the cities and towns of this Diocese were assisted by the agencies and apostolates funded by the Appeal.

Today more than ever, we are keenly aware of the tremendous need for assistance that exists in our communities. With an uncertain economic climate and severe cutbacks on the state level, the demands placed on the charitable agencies of the Catholic Church in our area are increasing. On behalf of the needy in our midst, I appeal to your goodness and ask you to please support this year's Catholic Charities Appeal with renewed enthusiasm and generosity.

In the past few months we have all been saddened, angered, and/or repulsed by the scandalous actions plaguing the Church and with good cause. While this is not the forum to discuss this serious issue, I must reassure you that any and all donations given to the Catholic Charities Appeal are used for services provided by the agencies and apostolates of the Diocese of Fall River.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a brochure detailing the many ways your donation helps the needy of our area. With the brochure is a donation card and a return envelope. The Diocese has asked us to consider the possibility of the "pledge system." This system allows us to pledge a certain amount over a ten-month period with a number of billing options. Many people find it easier to make a larger contribution in this way. You may make your returns through the weekend collection basket, the mail, or dropping them off at the parish office.

I ask you to prayerfully consider this special appeal to your generosity. The parishioners of Sacred Heart have always been noted for their concern for those in need. Let us all join in this worthwhile effort. Recognizing the many blessings God has so generously bestowed, let us respond with the same generosity and compassion.

Praying God's peace to you and yours, I remain,

Sincerely



(Rev.) David A. Costa
Pastor