

*Church of the Ascension
New Milford, NJ 07646*

Office of the Pastor

February, 2012



Dear Ascension Parishioners,

The 2012 Archbishop's Annual Appeal has begun. Each year, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal provides valuable resources to parishes and schools in need, helps the poor with food, shelter and clothing, supports many pastoral ministries, funds three Archdiocesan seminaries and makes housing and medical care possible for retired priests. The AAA reminds us that we are one with all the other parishes of our Archdiocese. The Appeal gives us a chance to work together for God's people by sharing our God-given gifts.

This year's appeal theme is ***Come Be My Light***. To be a light is to live our faith in practice. Through good deeds and acts we come out of the darkness and into God's light and in turn, we become the beacons of hope for those in need.

Supporting the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is an opportunity to provide hope, faith and love to so many in our community. The appeal helps the hungry, the homeless, and the sick. It also provides for religious education and makes our faith a reality for thousands in Northern New Jersey.

This year, as our economic problems continue, especially high unemployment, more people than ever in the Archdiocese of Newark are relying on the Archbishop's Annual Appeal for life's necessities. Sadly, as the suffering has become more widespread, the Archdiocese's ability to help is strained by reduced donations and increased costs.

Archbishop Myers has set our 2012 goal at **\$46,841.01**. If you have already contributed, I want you to know how grateful I am for your generosity. If you have not yet contributed, I write to you now to ask for your help. I ask that each parish family make a financial commitment to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal so that, with God's help, we may again surpass our goal. **Give a lot...Give a little...but, please, Give something!** It is with great trust in God and in our parishioners that I ask every Ascension family to say "yes" to our Annual Appeal by contributing, at the very least, a one-time donation of \$25.00, more if your means allow. This would ensure surpassing our goal and receiving a substantial rebate. Perhaps, you could make the Appeal part of your Lenten fasting.

As good stewards of the mysteries and gifts of Jesus Christ, I humbly ask you to join me in making a generous gift to the 2012 Archbishop's Annual Appeal and to be the light for so many in our community.

Please, let's pray and work together, that with God's help, we can go over goal again. May God continue to bless **all** at Ascension with generous hearts.

Know that I pray for you and your family each and every day. Please keep me in your prayers.

God Love You!

Very Rev. David W. Milliken, V.F.
Pastor

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