

*Church of the Ascension
New Milford, NJ 07646*

Office of the Pastor



Dear Ascension Parishioners,

February 7th and 8th is Pledge Weekend for the 2009 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. 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. Our parish and the Archdiocese are one. Both need your sacrificial support.

Contributions to the AAA help transform what happens in the hearts and minds of those we help. Many feel alone, abandoned and without hope. The AAA helps to restore their faith in humanity and in themselves. It helps them to heal the wounds that have perhaps even led them astray from God's teachings.

This year's AAA theme is "**Rooted in Faith, Growing in Love.**" It comes from the third chapter of Ephesians, which goes on to say, "May Christ dwell in your hearts, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life. Thus you will be able to grasp fully the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love." The Annual Appeal is our way to continue Jesus' journey of holiness together, reaching out to people with our love and support.

Our parish goal for 2008 was **\$52,370.98**. Of our 1700 Ascension families, 342 families contributed \$59,160.16 to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. I believe these parishioners have come to understand that by applying the Gospel to our daily lives, we are helping ourselves by becoming closer to God and his kingdom. We have also received a rebate of \$4,243.24 from the 2008 appeal.

I am writing to you now to ask for your help. Archbishop Myers has set our 2009 goal at **\$43,546.50**. If we reach \$59,546.50, we will receive a rebate of \$10,000.00. Please, let's pray and work together, that with God's help, we may again surpass our goal. I hope that those who have contributed so generously every year will continue to do so. 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 \$10.00, more if your means allow. This would ensure surpassing our goal and receiving a substantial rebate.

Signing up on Pledge Weekend reduces our parish mailing costs. Every parishioner family who has not made a commitment on Pledge Weekend will receive a letter inviting them to contribute to the AAA. Please note that reminder statements will be sent from the Archdiocese on a ten month basis. You do not need to include a full payment now.

I ask that, after the homily, you complete the pledge/contribution envelope and place it, with your weekly envelope, in the regular Sunday offertory collection.

As always, the success of the AAA is dependent on all of us. Together we can make the difference in someone's life. During these difficult economic times, giving is more important than ever. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2009 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Through your faith and generosity may you continue to grow in His love.

Each and every day I thank God for YOU. Thank you for all you continue to be and to do for your parish.

God Love You!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. David".

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

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