

# Church of the Ascension New Milford, NJ 07646

Office of the Pastor

Ash Wednesday, 2010

Dear Ascension Parishioners,

The 2010 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.

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 led them astray from God's teachings.

In Saint Matthew's Gospel, Jesus instructs us with the Corporal Works of Mercy, which is the theme of this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal. This message, delivered over two thousand years ago, is still relevant today - we still need to help others.

This year with all our economic problems, 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 2010 goal at **\$47,901.00**. If we reach \$63,901.00, we will receive a rebate of \$10,000.00. 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.

I urge everyone, especially now, to consider making a gift to the 2010 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. As Jesus said, "I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters, you did it for me."

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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