Blessed

Are

You

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February 17, 2019

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Who has a compassionate heart? If we have the heart for God, then our heart is compassionate. God seeks us to be in relationship with Him and rejoices when we trust in Him completely, when we turn everything over to Him . . . all our fears, uncertainties and difficulties . . . all our goodness, beauty and riches.

The Scriptures of this Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time speak to us of trust and blessing. Jesus expresses the will of God to lead man to happiness. We are told, “Rejoice and be glad for our reward will be great in heaven.” I praise our Lord God for each one of you for you are His blessing to us. Your trust in God yields His kingdom on this earth.

Each year I come to you with Our Catholic Appeal. The ministries supported by Our Catholic Appeal assist us greatly as I am entrusted with the care of this local Church, the Diocese of Orlando. I am called to serve as teacher, sanctifier, and administrator of you, the faithful of this diocese. I share these duties with our priests and deacons, religious sisters, and with all of you that we might produce a land that is pleasing to the Lord our God.

In today’s Gospel of St. Luke, we hear Jesus pray the Beatitudes. Jesus teaches us to trust in God; that as He prays, they are called blessed. He also teaches us to be as God calls us to be; to return to God what God has given to us. Your support of Our Catholic Appeal is our response to this request. The ministries supported by Our Catholic Appeal are our Beatitudes of prayer.

Pope Francis said, the Beatitudes are “born of a merciful heart that never loses hope.” Thank you for your offering to Our Catholic Appeal because it brings hope into our world. It is our prayer of blessing. Jesus says, “Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.” May our gifts from God for God be abundantly offered that we will see Him face to face.

May the Virgin Mary, model and first fruit of the poor in spirit, inasmuch as she is totally docile to the Lord’s will, help us abandon ourselves to God so that He may fill us with His gifts, especially the abundance of His forgiveness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando
Leadership & Parish Life – 23%
Vocations & Seminarian Education, Clergy Formation, Permanent Diaconate, Bishop's Office, Liturgy, Liturgical Music, Consecrated Life, Tribunal, Ministry to Senior Priests, Ministry to International Priests

Education – 15%
Catholic Schools, Mission Office/Sister Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

Discipleship & Stewardship – 14%
Parish, School & Diocesan Development Services

Human Dignity & Solidarity – 13%
Bishop Grady Villas, Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Farmworkers Ministry, Tourism Ministry

Laity, Family & Life – 10%
Children's Ministry, Family Ministry, Catholic Campus Ministry, Multicultural Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Ministry, Mission Integration

Ecclesiastical Property – 7%
Cemeteries, Design & Construction, Facilities Management

State & National Outreach – 5%
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, Southeast Pastoral Institute

Financial Services – 5%
Finance, Information Technology, Parish Shared Accounting Services, Printing & Distribution

Communications – 4%
Archives, Communications, Florida Catholic Newspaper, Faith Fit

Human Resources – 4%
Parish, School & Diocesan Human Resource Services, Victim Assistance
OUR CATHOLIC APPEAL PRAYER:

O Lord,

we praise You for the many gifts You give us each day; from the moment we were a presence in our mother’s womb to the grace-filled rise of the sun, to the blessing of Sacrament, to the night which ushers us rest.

Help us to grow in our living faith. Guide us to serve as leaders to bring about holiness. Bring us to share ourselves selflessly in all things in a spirit of love of You.

In the Eucharistic banquet, You give Yourself completely and entirely to us. We give You our return, O Lord, with gratitude knowing there is no measure to the gift of the Cross which brings us resurrection.

~Amen

Catholic Charities assisted 71,209 people with food supplies through our 3 mission markets and our mobile food pantries.
The Diocese of Orlando provides several training and workshop opportunities annually for Pastors, Business Managers and Parish Finance Council chairs to help them focus on best practices for fiscal responsibility.

After Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Ecclesiastical Properties processed parish claims totaling $4.3 million, while Catholic Charities helped individual parishioner needs.

*Through housing assistance, “God has opened doors,”*
~ Luis Gonzalez

The Diocese of Orlando’s Faith Fit app puts prayers, spiritual reflections, videos, podcasts and the latest diocesan news right at the user’s fingertips. This app is an indispensable resource for all who are looking to grow in holiness.
Currently, there are 22 diocesan seminarians preparing for the priesthood.

“I enjoy preaching God’s Word because it has the power to heal.”
~ Deacon Derek Saldanha

More than 6,400 catechists throughout our 92 parishes and missions provided faith formation opportunities, sacramental preparation, and child & adult catechesis to more than 48,400 adults, youth and children.

“Practical, helpful, engaging, and inspiring.”
~ Angelica Trevino

100% of volunteers, parish staff, priests, ministry leaders and diocesan employees have completed background checks. They have been trained to maintain a safe environment and protect children and vulnerable members of our community.
ORACIÓN PARA NUESTRO LLAMADO CATÓLICO

Oh Señor,

te alabamos por los muchos dones que nos das cada día; desde el momento en que éramos una presencia en el vientre de nuestra madre hasta la salida llena de gracia del sol, hasta la bendición del Sacramento, hasta la noche que nos trae el descanso.

Ayúdanos a crecer en nuestra fe viva. Guíanos para servir como líderes para promover la santidad.

Llévanos a compartirnos desinteresadamente en todas las cosas en un espíritu de amor por Ti.

En el banquete Eucarístico, Te entregaste por completo a nosotros.

Nos entregamos a Ti, oh Señor, con gratitud, sabiendo que nada se compara al regalo de la Cruz que nos trae la resurrección.

~Amén

Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh.
~Luke 6:21

Oversight for the fight against human trafficking includes partnering with other community organizations to provide a full range of services to those who are trafficked.
Corpus Christi Society
Latin for “Body of Christ,” the Corpus Christi Society honors our generous and faithful Catholic leaders who make a gift of $10,000 or more to Our Catholic Appeal.

Spes Christi Society
Latin for “Hope of Christ,” the Spes Christi Society honors our generous and faithful Catholic leaders who make a gift of $5,000 or more to Our Catholic Appeal.

Lumen Christi Society
Latin for “Light of Christ,” the Lumen Christi Society honors those who make a gift of $2,500 or more to Our Catholic Appeal.

Fidelis Society
Latin for “The Faithful,” the Fidelis Society recognizes those who make a gift for five or more consecutive years, regardless of the amount, to Our Catholic Appeal.

Ways to give
Pledges via cash, check or credit/debit card
Online Giving at www.cfocf.org/oca/give
Gifts of stock or mutual funds
Gifts from a retirement account

Pledge payments may be made over a period of 10 months. Payment reminders will be mailed to you in accordance with the number of months you choose.

All contributions from the smallest to the largest will be gratefully appreciated. Your decision is a personal one and should be made in good conscience and in true Christian spirit.

Not everyone can make the same size gift; but everyone can make the same size sacrifice.

www.cfocf.org/oca/give

Para ver este folleto en español por favor visite www.cfocf.org/oca