

Dear Parishioner,

The Lenten season is a time of spiritual preparation for the resurrection. We have great hope that, come Easter, our hearts will be closer to God and our parish community will be stronger for it. When we share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us and participate in the Diocesan Lenten Appeal, we bring hope to the lives of many. With this in mind, the theme for this year's Appeal is *Open Your Heart to Hope*.

Your donations enable our diocese to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the lives of so many. Through this Appeal, we serve thousands in our own community! We mobilize Catholic Charities to assist those in need. We help people grow in their faith through evangelization, faith formation, lay ministry, vocations and our International Priests Program. We support hospital ministers who visit the sick. We invest in the next generation of Christ's disciples through our Catholic elementary and high schools.

This year, our parish will support these diocesan ministries with the first \$110,082 raised through the Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Then, all funds raised after that will help to purchase and install security equipment in our parish office, church, and halls. Our parish needs an additional \$50,000 from this year's DLA to help fund the costs associated with these security improvements. In other words, our parish is attempting to raise a total of \$160,082 through this year's DLA in order to support the various aspects of Diocesan ministry and to cover costs of increased security on our property.

For you, and others like you who have been blessed by God, I am asking you to help our Diocese and this mission of hope by supporting (renewing your support of) the Diocesan Lenten Appeal with a gift. For your convenience, we have noted your generosity from previous years on the enclosed pledge card. The average gift to the Diocesan Lenten Appeal last year was \$260. If you like, your gift can be spread out over 10 months. No matter what you are able to give, know that I am most especially grateful for your prayers, which help to secure the success of the Church's many ministries.

You can make a difference in the lives of the many people whose lives are impacted by our Diocese and the lives of your fellow members of Our Lady of Grace. Your prayers and participation are always tremendously appreciated. Please join us, and *Open Your Heart to Hope*.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Daniel L. Blout
Pastor