



February 2021

Dear Donor,

Although we have not been able to gather in person as we normally do for nearly a year, I am eager for the day when we can open the doors to our beautiful Cathedral of Christ the Light and all our churches, to celebrate Holy Mass together.

The challenges of the past year bring sharply into focus the need for spiritual strength. For some time now, I have been reflecting on this Scripture verse:

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121

When we are seeking help, consolation, and encouragement, we turn to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, for so many, that prayer is made in your home. As children, we learned to pray first with our parents. Now, even more so, we are experiencing church at home, through our parish's livestream Masses, spiritual and social online gatherings.

While some of the ways we gather have changed, the work of the Church has stayed strong. The ministries of our Diocese have found creative and new ways to reach out and connect with everyone. We have all used technology, creativity, and ingenuity to keep the work of the Diocese available, accessible and meaningful. We are here and not just ready to serve; we are serving.

It is the time of year when I come to each of you and seek your financial support to maintain our vital diocesan services and programs. Our religious education and faith formation, pastoral ministries, clergy support, seminarian formation and care for our retired priests all rely on your gifts to keep going. Will you please help me assure that the resources are provided to continue the care and outreach that is so important to our collective spirit?

We continue with the theme *Rebuild My Church* for a third year. It seems more appropriate than ever. With your gifts, and prayers, we will meet the challenges and opportunities ahead, together.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.

Bishop of Oakland

N.B. All gifts to the Bishop's Appeal go solely to those purposes listed above. Funds are never redirected to any other use.

DIocese of Oakland | Bishop's Appeal 2021

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