Dear Parishioners,

As a pastor, you are always learning and growing. The steepest learning curve happens on the “practical” side of leading a parish. For a long time, I thought fundraising fell on the “practical” side of being a pastor, a necessary evil our parish had to endure occasionally, like kids needing to eat their vegetables before getting dessert. But I was wrong. Fundraising is a ministry, and it is so much more.

It is not just asking for money to support worthy causes. It is about *inviting* families to take an active role in supporting the larger Church to help those around us. It is about coming together to provide real, immediate help to those in need.

As you know, over the last couple of months, I have spoken about the 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal. I hope you have gained an understanding of what it means to support the Appeal. Yes, our parish is a direct beneficiary as we receive money back through the parish sharing component. However, supporting the Appeal is also about supporting the Catholic Church outside of our parish. For example, did you know that the Appeal:

* Helps supply groceries as well as heating, rent and shelter assistance to children, families in need and the elderly across the Diocese.
* Expands opportunities for college students to deepen their commitment to the Catholic Church.
* Provides a variety of assistance to mission parishes such as funds for capital improvements, outreach ministries and specific ministry costs.

As of today, we are PERCENTAGE OF GOAL% versus our parish goal of $2021 PARISH GOAL. While we are so blessed to see people contributing to the Appeal at our parish, there is still much more to be done. The goal of the Appeal every year is participation. **Therefore, it is my prayerful hope that every family in our parish will make a gift or pledge to support the 2021 Appeal**.

If you have already made your gift, 12-month pledge or recurring gift, THANK YOU! We are so grateful for your commitment. If you have not yet had the opportunity, you may contribute securely and quickly online right now at <https://richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal/>.

Finally, if you have any questions at all about the Appeal or anything related to the life of our parish, please do not hesitate to contact PARISH CONTACT NAME at PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL ADDRESS. We would be happy to hear from you!

Thank you very much for all you do for our parish and for your consideration of our request.

Gratefully in Christ,

INSERT SIGNATURE

PASTOR NAME
PASTOR TITLE