



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

June 22, 2009

My dear friends,

As you know, the theme of this year's Catholic Services Appeal is ***So Faith May Flourish***. The theme embodies the importance of our collective efforts of every parish in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Although we are unique and separate parish faith families, we are united in faith as the body of Christ and called to work together to further the mission of the church.

As people of faith, we recognize that everything we have been given comes to us from God. As stewards of these many blessings, we receive them gratefully, tend to them diligently, share them generously with one another and return them in even greater abundance to the Lord.

Catholics throughout our diocese are responding to the call and challenge. As of June 19, with 100 parishes reporting, pledges have now exceeded the \$4 million mark. Gifts total \$4,008,655 or 85% of our diocesan goal (a portion of these funds will be rebated directly to parishes). There are 33 parishes over goal to date and 26 more within 20% of goal. All but three of our parishes have reported campaign progress.

If we all do our part, we can reach our goal and effectively continue the important work of our Lord. Thank you for your continuing generosity which helps further the work of our Lord at the diocesan level.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids