



## ***4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER*** ***YEAR C – May 12, 2019***

We hear in the first reading from the Acts of the apostles that the church continues to grow and extends far beyond the chosen people of God. It includes all the Gentiles as well and that means us. The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. Pray to the lord of the harvest that he sends laborers into his vineyard. Pray too for those who are called - that they may respond in a generous way to what God asks of them. All of us are called to serve as Jesus did. Reflect today on how you do that.

This is also the weekend to remind you about the Bishop's Annual appeal. You have received information in the mail. And there is a lot of information in the AD times. The variety of programs supported by the annual appeal touch every corner of the five-county area of our diocese. All the money is used for donor intent. None is used for lawsuits of any kind.

To give you some idea of what happens with the money collected:

- ✚ 1540 women received counseling and other support services from Caring Hearts Parenting Support Services.
- ✚ 253 families used Catholic Senior Housing and Healthcare Services
- ✚ 147 children and their families were served in the foster care program
- ✚ 98 children received scholarships to attend Catholic high schools
- ✚ 381 families sent a loved one to Holy Family Manor.
- ✚ Hundreds of families received counseling services to help them through difficult times.

It can't be done without your help. Please be as generous as you have been in the past. A lot of good people depend on our help.

You can view the video on line this year. It's well done and allows you to see some of the faces of the people you help. Let me conclude with the Bishop's Annual Appeal Prayer:

“ Lord God and Father, we are your people, united in our love for you and for one another. We thank You for the many gifts You have given to us and we welcome Your presence in our lives at all times.

We ask that You continue to draw us closer to You and to strengthen our resolve to assist those among us who are most in need.

We are Many Parts of the Body of Christ. Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, allow us to come together to share our time, talent and treasure with those who need our assistance.

Let us grasp more fully that the help we extend to others is the most powerful expression of our gratitude to You, as well as a genuine testimony to our faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

For a few moments in silence, reflect on what you can do to help those who need our help. On behalf of all who benefit from your kindness, I thank you.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR MOMS**