



BISHOP'S APPEAL 2009
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTLAND

Next weekend, all our parishioners will join together in support of our Annual Bishop's Appeal 2009. Each of you will be asked to join together in the spirit of stewardship by making a financial commitment to the Church in Maine. Our Bishop's Appeal provides essential operating support for offices that provide direct services to both this parish and thousands of people throughout the state.

A successful Bishop's Appeal is vital to the continued health of this parish and our Diocesan Church. As our parish and Diocese are one, comprising the Body of Christ, neither can exist without the other and both need your support.

Please join all parishioners in support of our annual Bishop's Appeal. Your support of this appeal ensures that our schools and our religious education programs remain vital sources of learning and support for our young people. It ensures that the profound needs of the sick, the troubled and elderly are met by the various programs of Catholic Charities, it ensures continuous and essential training for all those who are called to ministry within our Diocese, and it ensures that our Diocese remains a vital, faith-filled community.

Why In-Pew Signing Next Weekend?

Every family will be asked to make a commitment to our Bishop's Appeal by completing a special appeal pledge card, in pew, next weekend, at homily time. This process greatly reduces the potential expenses associated with this appeal (postage, volunteer hours, etc). This method generates 70% of our total gifts to our Bishop's Appeal.

How Does The In-Pew Commitment Process Work?

Next week, at homily time, a representative will speak about the appeal and will ask ushers to distribute appeal envelopes throughout the Church. From the pulpit, you will be led in completing the pledge card (no down payment will be necessary – the Development Office will send **four reminders through June 2010**). The ushers will collect the envelopes by way of a **separate** pass of the basket. You need not bring cash or a check next weekend for this process - just come prepared to make a commitment to the Bishop's Appeal 2009.

