



January 19, 2022

Reverend Robert J. Lojek
SS. Constance and Robert Bellarmine Parish
4646 North Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630-3157

Dear Father Lojek,

The past two years have been difficult for us. We have all felt worn down. Exactly in these circumstances, the Lord speaks to us. He tells us that He is making all things new, and He invites us to share in that renewal.

So, it is appropriate and timely that we take up this year's Annual Catholic Appeal with the theme: *making all things new... God's promise and our responsibility*. As we embrace God's promise of making all things new, we also hear the call to work with God's plan. But how do we do this?

We pray and live out our daily responsibilities with love and generosity. We serve in the Church and in the world. We also support the Annual Catholic Appeal. When we promote the Appeal, we are a part of *making all things new* in parishes and Catholic schools serving those in need, in programs of religious education and ministry formation to spread our faith, and in initiatives to address justice, peace, and respect for life.

Your leadership as pastor and your willingness to follow well-proven and effective procedures will make the Appeal successful. To date, this year's Appeal has raised over \$14.2 million, which is quite an accomplishment considering our current circumstances. Thank you for your support. It makes all the difference.

As I am sure you know, and may be experiencing yourself, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a challenging effect at many of our parishes. Most parishes have experienced a decline in offertory since the start of the pandemic. Each parish's goal for the Annual Catholic Appeal is based on the prior fiscal year's offertory. For the 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal, goals are therefore based on offertory (Sundays, Holy Days, Christmas, and Easter) from Fiscal Year 2021. That fiscal year includes twelve full months of Covid-19 impact. Following normal business practice for Annual Catholic Appeal goal setting that means that most—but not all—parishes will have a lower Annual Catholic Appeal goal this year than last year. Lower average Annual Catholic Appeal goals across the Archdiocese will make it more difficult to meet the needs of our most struggling parishes and schools, but the 2022 goals should reflect the reality of what you are experiencing at your parish.



As we build on our past collaboration, I ask you once again to follow the Appeal process, and whatever modifications may need to be introduced for this year. More specifically, your 2022 goal is 7% of the previous year's offertory income. **For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, your offertory income was \$982,361. Therefore, your target for the 2022 Appeal is \$68,765.** As you know, when contributions exceed the goal, SS. Constance and Robert Bellarmine Parish will receive a rebate from those donated funds.

If you and/or your leadership team have any questions about the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal, please contact Barbara Shea Collins (312-504-4817 or bcollins@archchicago.org) and she will assist you.

Father Lojek, thank you again for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, a way for missionary disciples to bring the Lord's hope to the world.

Thank you for your generosity. Let us pray that we can work with God's help to make all things new.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Most Rev. Cardinal Cyprian".

Archbishop of Chicago

cc: Business Manager

No money donated to the Annual Catholic Appeal has been or will be used to defray expenses related to misconduct issues.