

## Bishop's Annual Appeal

For those who may have missed this article in last year's bulletin I am reprinting it here. All parishioners are asked to fill out their pledge cards before coming to church and simply place them in the collection baskets or mail them to our parish office as we have been doing with our offertory envelopes, Thank you in advance for your support to this vital Appeal.

### How the **Bishop's Annual Appeal** Directly Affects St. Brendan Parish

Dear Parishioners,  
The first thing I would like to say about this year's BAA is that I am not going to subject you to all of those interminable announcements during Mass. (Applause here, and possibly cheering and waving of arms in relief and appreciation.)  
The second thing I would like to say is that I have heard that many parishioners feel that the ministries and benefits of the BAA do not help us here at St. Brendan. That is flatly not true. Of the over 30 ministries and services supported by the BAA I will highlight three here:

#### 1. Office of Child and Youth Protection

In years past we have been saddened, shocked, and angered at the news that some dioceses in the U.S. had still not complied fully with the rules and guidelines to promote a safe environment. By stark contrast, the Diocese of Raleigh has been a leader in this area by establishing an Office for Child and Youth Protection, hiring a full-time Director for that office, and providing many invaluable resources for parishes, including St. Brendan's, in establishing and maintaining a safe environment for children and youth. For more information please use the following link: [dioceseofraleigh.org/child-and-youth-protection](http://dioceseofraleigh.org/child-and-youth-protection) Providing support for the Bishop's Annual Appeal provides support for a safe environment for our children and youth.

#### 2. Disaster Relief and Repair

For the past several years hurricanes have hit Shallotte with devastating effects. Even during these hurricanes, Catholic Charities contacted me to offer assistance to

those who sustained damage, and the Property and Construction Office of the Diocese of Raleigh stood ready to assist with repairs to parish property. Catholic Charities receives most of its funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Also, and thankfully, St. Brendan's received insurance reimbursement for repair work in a timely fashion and we were able to complete the major repairs with little or no interruption to Sunday worship.

The opportune time to donate to disaster relief is before disasters strike. Support for the Bishop's Annual Appeal is support for disaster relief.

#### 3. Seminarian Education

Seminarians of the Diocese of Raleigh do not pay for their own seminary education. The Bishop's Annual Appeal provides that funding. I myself am a past beneficiary of the generosity of the BAA. If it were not for the BAA I would not have been able to become a priest. The fact that St. Brendan's has a full-time resident pastor who is a diocesan priest is evidence that St. Brendan's is also a direct beneficiary of the BAA.

Donating to the Bishop's Annual Appeal will help ensure that we can continue to have a resident diocesan priest for our parish.

## **The Goal**

Our Parish goal for the BAA this year is:  
**\$163,935**

Now is our opportunity to show support for Safe Environment, Disaster Relief and Seminarian Education by supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

## Invitation to Part-Time Parishioners

Many of those who attend St. Brendan are here for only a few months out of the year and may support the BAA in another diocese. However, while in the Diocese of Raleigh, these parishioners are also benefiting from our BAA! All part-time parishioners are invited to make a pledge to our BAA according to the number of months spent at St. Brendan. This will greatly assist us in meeting our parish goal.

Blessings to all. – Fr. Mark