

Column052321

Companions on the Journey

May 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

On this past Monday I received the following letter from the President of the Catholic Charities Appeal for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Good afternoon Monsignor McHenry,

Congratulations to you and the Saint Anthony of Padua-Ambler community on reaching your Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) Parish Goal of \$59,172! You have shared in the collective efforts of the Catholic Charities Appeal in "Giving Hope to All" by reaching your goal. Thank you for your continued generosity. Your kindness will support tens of thousands of people through countless organizations and ministries throughout the greater Philadelphia area.

Our primary goal moving forward is to continue to inspire others to fulfill the needs of our larger community. We encourage you to continue your generosity by remaining involved in the Catholic Charities Appeal to help in those efforts. Thanks again for your support of the Catholic Charities Appeal, it is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to share this message with your parish community.

In gratitude and prayers,

William J. Phelan

I must confess that I receive a good number of such thank you letters as your pastor. Always I receive a warm message of congratulations but it is because of your generosity. Not just personally but collectively and as part of our parish community of faith. On this Sunday when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and celebrate the historic birthday of the Church which has received the gift of the Holy Spirit and benefits from the fruits and gifts of that Spirit I just want you to know that the Holy Spirit is alive and well and living in you and working in and through you. I see evidence all the time of your responding so generously to the requests for assistance. This care for the needy whom we do not even know is one of the hallmarks of the followers of Jesus of Nazareth. From the earliest days and in keeping with our centuries old Jewish heritage, to care for the poor, the marginalized, the distressed, the needy, the handicapped, the inform, the defenseless has been an enduring sign of faith in Jesus Christ.

That spirit of generosity and care is alive and well big time here at Saint Anthony's and it is a sign that the Lord Jesus lives in your hearts and his Spirit prompts you to generosity and compassion. I am most grateful to serve such a fine example of Catholic faith in action. And to quote one of my best "toasts" let me finish by saying: Among the finest; you're the best!

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry