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Companions on the Journey

March 12, 2023

Dear Friends,

Each year for at least the last fifty years there has been an annual Archdiocesan Appeal for the support of various Catholic Charities (CCA). Presently this year's appeal is underway. The Theme is: Giving Hope To All. Your support of this campaign typically is in excess of \$60,000 each year. It is yet another testament to your generosity. Your contributions for Those In Need (the envelope in your packet with the purple border around it.) to help assist those who come here to Saint Anthony's comes in at about a \$600 a week all year long. Around \$30,000 a year. There are all the second collections. There is your assistance to our sister parish in Houson, Jordan, usually around \$10,000. There are all the food collections, the clothes collections, the gift card collections. It is thousands and thousands of dollars more.

There is all the support for mothers in crisis and for single moms with children. There is your help for the homeless especially in Montgomery County when you provide meals, transportation and assistance for the homeless in our area. You help subsidize those who live in Hope Gardens across the street from Saint Joseph's parish.

All of this is directed to help the poor and those in need. It is all in addition to your support of the parish and its various ministries and services. I encourage you to continue to support the Catholic Charities Appeal. There are children with very special needs. They receive CCA funds. There are single parents and many throughout the five county area served by the women and men in Catholic Social Services. This is the largest non-government related social service provider in the Delaware Valley. Catholic Social Services receives some CCA funding.

Now that I am approaching Retirement age, I can affirm that some of the monies you donate also go to the support of your diocesan priests and the Villas available to them especially when they become infirm because of advanced age or physical or mental infirmities. CCA is not a top heavy charity where a lot of the donations are siphoned to pay top administrative officials. The vast majority of funds contributed goes directly for services provided. Over 90%.

I looked at my checkbook balance when I received this year's request for funds. My balance is a little lower than usual but I intend to give a little more than I did last year. I recommend that as a choice you make in your charitable giving. Give a little bit more this year than last. Not a lot. Just a little. But over fifty years it is amazing what that amounts to. I know that many of you do this on a regular basis. I just want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the poor whom we serve today, to thank you for the level of your care. May God be praised for your goodness and generosity.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry