



***Immaculate Conception Church***  
***193 Main Street***  
***North Easton, MA 02356***

May 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Fall River is beginning its 75th Annual Catholic Charities Appeal.

This milestone is shared with Pope Francis' declaration that 2016 is to be designated as an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The church's teachings and the focus of preaching is to be an invitation to make real in the world the theme of the Jubilee: *Merciful like the Father*. The call to mercy is forever the call of all Christians. This year has been declared so that we might all give special attention to that important part of our baptismal vocation. Our church has always looked to the traditional "corporal works of mercy" as our calling to be the voice and hands of Jesus in the world. Those works of mercy are:

Feed the hungry  
Give drink to the thirsty  
Shelter the homeless  
Visit the sick  
Visit the prisoners  
Bury the dead  
Give alms to the poor

For 75 years, these works of mercy have formed the basis of all the ministries which are funded annually by our contributions to the Catholic Charities Appeal. The hundreds of thousands of people who, throughout these 75 years, have benefited from your church's ministries are not far away. Many are our own neighbors in our own town.

And so I appeal to you to do your part in responding to our Holy Father's call for mercy. This echoes the call of Christ in the Gospel.

There are several convenient ways for you make a contribution. Please consider a monthly pledge which enables us be more generous by extending our contribution over the course of the next ten months. This also serves as a periodic reminder to us of our gift, and also our need to keep those who receive these ministries in our prayers. Also, do not forget prayers for those who actively minister to these needs.

- Visit our parish website, [www.icceaston.org](http://www.icceaston.org) where you can view the Catholic Charities Appeal video and connect to the Catholic Charities website to make a secure one-time contribution or fulfill a monthly pledge drawn from a personal bank account, or charged monthly to a credit card.
- Or, you can fill out the enclosed card and return it to the parish office by mail, or place it in the offering basket at Mass, to make a pledge which can also be fulfilled monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or a onetime payment.

Begin as always by prayerfully considering how your help will be a blessing to so many families and children in crisis. God's blessings to us can become blessings to so many who suffer the indignities which life can bring. Please be a part of your parish effort to be "Merciful like the Father"

With gratitude for your generous support, and prayers for God's blessings to you and your family,

Father Richard Degagne

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