



Immaculate Conception Church
193 Main Street
North Easton, MA 02356

76th Catholic Charities Appeal – DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

“Whatsoever you do...” is this year’s theme for the Fall River Diocese 76th Catholic Charities Appeal. This theme of course is taken from the famous line from the Sermon on the Mount. (*Matthew 5 – 7*). The verse continues with the text, *“...to the least of my little ones, you do to me.”* These *“little ones”* are not only a reference to children, but to all of God’s people in need. Elsewhere in the Gospel, Jesus speaks about the *“great ones”*. This is a reference to the self-sufficiency and the attitude of entitlement which often accompanies the attainment of a comfortable life. Jesus never condemns wealth or power. It is this self-sufficiency or the sense of entitlement which the Gospel challenges when they exclude the powerless, the hungry, and the poor.

The Gospel also teaches, *“To whom much has been given, much will be expected.”* (*Luke 12:48*). As Christians, we are called upon to live a life, not of entitlement, but of gratitude. All we have and all we are is ultimately a gift from God. It is in that spirit that Jesus reminds us quite vividly that *“feeding the poor, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, welcoming the stranger”* are among those actions which are the mark of those who seriously claim discipleship with Christ.

Each of us first of all needs to prayerfully reflect on all the ways God has blessed us – in our relationships, our families, our skills and talents, our ability to provide for those we love. And then as people of the church, we heed Christ’s call to expand our world to include all of the *“little ones”* of which Jesus speaks.

Part of the gratitude I offer to God is knowing that among my parishioners are wonderfully generous people who devote hours each week fulfilling this Gospel challenge. Our fellow parishioners prepare food for the Mainspring Homeless Shelter and Father Bill’s Place, staff the Easton Food Pantry, devote many hours to My Brother’s Keeper, and of course the men and women of our St. Vincent de Paul Society. The time offered by our brothers and sisters to provide direct service to the *“little ones”* is part of our parish gratitude to God. The Fall River Diocese carries out this ministry on a much broader scale. It is this service to God’s *“little ones”* which our generosity to the 76th Annual Catholic Charities Appeal supports.

There are several convenient ways for you make a contribution. Please consider a monthly pledge. This 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 hold in prayer those who receive these ministries. Also, do not forget prayers for those who actively minister to our brothers and sisters in need.

- Visit our parish website, www.icceaston.org where you can view the Catholic Charities Appeal video. We have also created a link to the Fall River Diocesan Office for Catholic Charities Appeal. There you may 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 to make a pledge which can also be fulfilled monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or a onetime payment. Return it to the parish office by mail, or place it in the offering basket at Mass.

As always, I offer my prayers at the altar on your behalf for all of God’s blessings and graces.

Sincerely in Christ,


Father Richard Degagne, Pastor