

Archbishop's Catholic Appeal 2008 *"Strike the Rock and the Water will Flow"*

Most past contributors to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal will receive a mailing from Archbishop Vlazny within the next few days. At all Masses next weekend, additional information will be provided in the bulletin insert. The Appeal provides funds to support essential parish-based ministries that would find it difficult, if not impossible, to operate solely on parish funds.

The funds you've contributed have been used for their intended purpose. Even in bankruptcy, the Archdiocese must honor the intent of each contributor. Appeal funds are used to help fund Archdiocesan offices and agencies that assist the parishes and their people. In addition, part of the funds are used to assist retired archdiocesan priests.

The theme of the 2008 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal is *"Strike the Rock and the Water will Flow."* As you consider the amount you can pledge to help these ministries, please reflect on the following:

Jesus reminds us that as His followers, we are blessed by God's faithfulness and everlasting love. When God said "Strike the rock and the water will flow," he was speaking to you and to me—he was speaking to all of us.

Each one of us, at some point in our lives, has felt the foundations of our faith challenged, and have needed the gift of goodness and peace that living waters bring. In some way, we have all been impoverished or hungry; we have all been insulted or rejected.

The very act of doing for others—the very act of giving—is an outpouring of life to one another. What we're involved in as Catholics is not a spectator sport. It's in our actions that we find fulfillment. When we give to others, God, in turn, pours out his goodness through us. As the Scriptures remind us, by engaging in Christ's mission to draw people to himself, we share in the gifts as well.

Please pray for the Lord's guidance as you consider the above reflections, and please give generously according to the blessings God has given you.