

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

This week, please read the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal materials you received today.

The Archbishop's Catholic Appeal provides substantial financial support to essential ministries that support parishes in our Archdiocese. These programs provide education, ministry, and a Catholic presence for tens of thousands of people.

Inspired by Moses, this year's theme is, *"Strike the Rock and the Water will Flow."* Though it occurred centuries ago it resounds today as well, the faithfulness Moses showed when he obeyed God and placed his trust in him, enough to strike a barren rock, and see water spring forth in abundance. Other accounts in the scripture remind us of our responsibility to listen to God in our lives, and to respond to him through our faith and trust. We are even provided strength to follow that call that he brings each one of us. No matter what's happening in the world around us, our faithful response to God brings a message of light and life to those around us, as we live our lives guided by the Gospel mission.

When we stop to count our abundant blessings, we're aware of how truly blessed we are. The Archbishop's Catholic Appeal is an invitation to share your blessings and support the Gospel mission here in Western Oregon. A significant pledge to this appeal is a sign that you are a part of the holy people who follow in the footsteps of the faithful throughout this history of scripture. Your pledge is also a sign of your gratitude for God's generous abundance. While we can never outdo God in generosity, we are called to join in the mission of the Gospel as we pour forth the gifts of life, goodness and grace through the sharing of our own blessings from God.