

## **Pulpit Announcement Kick-Off Weekend**

**Please use this Pulpit Announcement on Kick-Off Weekend, February 13-14, 2010, either immediately after the audio message or after communion.**

What if every need in our archdiocese was understood as a prayer? There would be prayers to fulfill basic needs, prayers for spiritual guidance, prayers for stronger marriages and families, prayers for countless other concerns. And what if we could join together in answering them? That's exactly the opportunity presented by the 2010 Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

You should have received Appeal materials in your mailboxes this past week. Please, when you review them, pause a moment to consider how your gift will help fund critical ministries and programs that benefit more than 680,000 Catholics and countless others throughout our ten-county archdiocese.

Your gift benefits 210 parishes, our Catholic elementary and high schools, training and support for catechists involved in parish religious education programs, the formation of future priests through our own Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, ecumenical and interfaith programs, multicultural ministries, vocational discernment, diaconate formation, lifelong faith formation for all, campus ministry, and many, many more.

***“Answering Prayers,”*** the theme of this year's Appeal, highlights the tremendous power of prayer in our lives. By joining together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of our fellow brothers and sisters in need. As we all recover from a prolonged recession, let us derive comfort and strength from the words of Jesus Christ when he said, “Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”

Ministries funded by the Appeal follow Jesus' example. They not only meet needs here and now, but also witness to the saving grace that comes from God our Father. It's what makes the Appeal different from most other charities and compels our involvement as faithful Catholic Christians.

I ask that you prayerfully consider the most generous gift you can to the 2010 Catholic Stewardship Appeal. We not only need your financial gifts, but your gift of prayer, too, in order to make our parish campaign a success. Thank you for your generosity. God bless you!