



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT  
12 STATE STREET  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

April 25, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“The encounter with Christ can completely change your life.” How very true. That wisdom was shared with us recently by Pope Francis. It provides the right context to introduce this year’s theme for the Catholic Services Appeal: “Opening Doors to Encounter Christ.”

As your Archbishop, I want you to know that when we “open doors” for others to have this personal encounter with Jesus through our CSA supported ministries, you and I are doing something crucial for the life of our local Church: we nurture life-changing encounters with Christ in our parishes, schools, institutions and agencies.

We do it together, and as Christian stewards, in our support of the CSA we live out the Gospel mission of our Church. The ministries, programs, and services funded by our annual appeal reach every soul in our six-county Archdiocese, strengthening urban and rural faith communities alike.

Opening Doors? Your generous donations do just that in supporting the formation of new Catholics beginning their faith journey through the RCIA.

There’s Campus Ministry which gives college students a spiritual lifeline as they transition to lives away from home.

On the other end of the age spectrum, we “open doors” to home-bound Catholics through the “Mass for Shut-Ins” on the Catholic Television Network of Detroit.

CSA supports our social media and the numbers are impressive: nearly six-thousand of our “followers” watched on the web or Facebook as our new auxiliary bishops were ordained.

Your donations also make a critical difference for the less fortunate in our community who receive food and shelter through our participation in the Corporal Works of Mercy.

What that means is the CSA touches countless lives and cultures. Supporting the CSA helps us — you and me — Open Doors to Encounter Christ. No one individual or parish could possibly accomplish all of these good works themselves! Truly, the CSA transforms our diverse family of believers into, in the words of Pope Francis, a “band of joyful missionary disciples.”

As you prayerfully consider your pledge to the 2017 CSA, please understand that we all benefit in some way from the ministries, programs, and services funded by the Catholic Services Appeal. I am sure you will be inspired to once again make the most generous gift possible. Solanus Casey often said: “Thank God ahead of time.” In that spirit, I would like to say “thank you” in advance for your support of this year’s Catholic Services Appeal. May God abundantly bless you and your family as we continue to help our brothers and sisters encounter Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron  
Archbishop of Detroit