

February 4, 2024

# A Note Regarding Annual Appeal

From Father Jim Ferry, Pastor  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange

Dear Friends,

**A QUESTION** Years ago, I felt uncomfortable due to a childhood friend's question about "financial help". He was not trying to borrow money but rather to donate money to Lourdes parish to a needy person or family. I had to find a person in need.

**MY ANSWER** I felt uncomfortable because I was afraid I would have to tell my friend that I could not find anyone. "Wrong answer to the question", I thought. However, after more calls, I was in touch with someone with the challenge of home repair expenses to accommodate an ailing family member.

The family's incredulous response to the gift was: "Why would anyone give us money to fix our house?" Why indeed?

**GOD'S GOOD NEWS** St. Paul wrote that mercy and charity are given because Jesus, the Son of God, regards us as part of his own body, giving up his life for us and giving us a model to follow, not simply as a compromise but as a covenant: "*Now a body is not a single part but many ... there are many parts but one body ... if one member is honored, all the members share its joy.*"  
(1st Corinthians 12)

**YOUR WITNESS** You, the parishioners of Lourdes, resemble my friend in your "cause and effect" generosity to the Giving Tree, food/sock drives, soup kitchen volunteering, and more. This is the effect of your generosity to good causes. Thank you!

## ANNUAL APPEAL 2024

The Annual Appeal is a vital connection to those in need. Participating in the Annual Appeal is an investment in the viability and vitality of our Catholic mission.

**Our Goal: \$28,210** | **Our Incentive: June 30**

If we meet our goal by June 30 in donations fully paid, Lourdes parish saves \$12,000 in assessment expenses to the Archdiocese. Thank you to those who have faithfully supported the "Appeal" annually. If you have not, I ask you to join as a new donor and consider a gift in accord with your means.

**BENEFITS TO OUR PARISH** The appeal contributes to the financial well-being of our parish by fostering collaborations with entities like Catholic Charities.

Furthermore, our school building lease to Catholic Charities provides substantial income. Catholic Charities oversees Mount Carmel Guild Academy which is located in our school building. This rent equals 50% of our parish budget or \$500,000. So, the well-being of Catholic Charities is good for us!

During 2014-2023, Lourdes has benefited from Appeal funding, totaling \$170,000 for construction projects, debt forgiveness, and reduced assessment expenses. (See table on reverse side.)

I welcome your questions and ask you to take an envelope from your pew. Checks should be made payable to "Annual Appeal 2024".

To give online, go to [rcan.org/sharing](https://rcan.org/sharing) and choose "Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange".

This message is available as a video on our website.  
Please share!

# Annual Appeal Money Given

— in contrast to —

## Money Granted Back to Lourdes Parish

	Construction Related Grants	Debt Forgiveness Grant	Reduction in Assessment Grant	Actual Money Given by Parishioners to Appeal
2014	\$40,000	-	-	\$28,364
2015*	\$15,000	\$66,000	-	-
2016	-	-	-	\$13,485
2017	-	-	-	\$13,309
2018	-	-	-	\$15,093
2019	-	-	-	\$15,079
2020	-	-	-	\$14,340
♥ 2021	-	-	-	\$29,649
♥ 2022	-	-	\$12,000	\$37,578
♥ 2023	\$25,000	-	\$12,000	\$37,438
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	<b>\$204,335</b>
Total of \$170,000 that has “come back” to Lourdes Parish through Annual Appeal Funds				2024 Annual Appeal Goal: \$28,210

♥ For the past 3 years, 2021-2023, we have met and exceeded the annual goal. Thank you!

\*2015 Capital Campaign