

## Annual Catholic Appeal Witness Talk 2015

I am Mickey Harrington. My husband, John, and I moved to Camano Island from Bigfork, MT in November 2005. We both became active in ministries here at St. Cecilia as we had in previous parishes.

This past year I volunteered to be on the St. Cecilia directory project. While the committee was compiling the photos for the directory, it became evident to me that the members of this parish, happily and enthusiastically, reflect the teachings of the Catholic Church through their chosen ministries. We teach the faith, we clothe and feed the needy, we comfort those in distress, and we support pro-life issues. However, no one individual can accomplish the entire mission of the church. It is with our donations to the Annual Catholic Appeal that we can support over 60 ministries and services for the Archdiocese of Seattle in Western Washington which includes retired priests medical benefits, seminarians, Faith Formation, Catholic Community Services, Catholic schools, tribunal, and CYO.

John and I find satisfaction in knowing that our contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal is beneficial to so many programs that affect not just our own faith community, but our neighboring communities as well.

Your support is critical to the success of the Annual Catholic Appeal and its many ministries and services. Today I am asking everyone to join me in making a pledge or one-time gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. The reason is not just because the church has a need – which it does, and not just because the causes are worthy – and they are, but especially because this is part of what it means to be Catholic. This year's total goal is \$11 million. Our parish portion of this goal is \$76,715. Please know that gifts of any amount are welcome. If you are not doing so already, I would ask you to please consider a gift of a dollar a day or \$365 or more. Your gift makes everything possible! There are a variety of ways to fulfill your pledge: credit or debit card, electronic funds transfer, stock, charitable fund, and pay by check. You can also donate online – the web address and QR code can be found on the campaign materials.

I invite everyone to take a few moments now to commit to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please pick up a pledge envelope from the pew and fill it out today and put it in the collection basket. If you are unable to financially give, please fill out an envelope and write "I am offering a prayer". This will let us know that you are participating and will prevent you from receiving follow up letters. While we give everyone one a chance to finish, please keep in mind that every dollar given over and above our goal is returned directly to our parish.

Before I wrap up, I also want to let you know that many employers match the Annual Catholic Appeal. This is a simple way to increase the amount of your overall gift to the Appeal. Please ask your employer if they have a matching gift program.

Thanks to your generosity, our church is here in times of need providing A Future Full of Hope. I, along with Fr. James thank you today in advance for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. The choice to make a difference is yours. Thank you, and God bless you!