



MANY GENERATIONS  
**STEWARDS OF  
ONE FAITH**

2012 Bishop's Appeal • Newsletter #3

## **THIS IS COMMITMENT WEEKEND!**

## **MINISTRY FOCUS**

*Safe Environment Project*

Welcome to Commitment Weekend! To successfully achieve both our parish goal and the overall diocesan goal of \$2.1 million, we need your help! A pledge to the appeal will help us reach out to thousands in the East Bay through diocesan ministries, programs and services.

### ***Participation is the Key Ingredient***

Last year, over 13,000 households, or 8% of all diocesan households, contributed to the Bishop's Appeal. This year, we are trying to increase participation. If you have not had an opportunity to make a pledge by returning your card through the mail, please complete a pledge envelope in the pew and place it in the collection basket today. **YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

### ***The Benefits of a Monthly Pledge***

Bishop Cordileone asks you to help support vital Diocesan ministries and services by considering a pledge payable monthly through December 31, 2012. If you can give \$15, \$20, or \$30 each month through December, it equals \$150, \$200 or \$300 when spread out over the year. We know everyone's financial situation is different, so everyone is asked to consider making a sacrificial gift at his/her level. Every pledge of every size is needed and appreciated. Please keep in mind:

- A pledge allows you to make a continuous sacrifice that adds up to a significant contribution over a one-year period.
- A pledge allows you to make payments at your convenience (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annually).
- The decision on a specific amount is a decision each family is asked to make after prayerful consideration. While no gift or pledge is too small or too large, it should have some relationship to your own standard of living and how generous God has been to you and your family.

*Ministering to children and young people is the heart of what Jesus calls His people to do. The mission of our Safe Environment Project is to assist the Church in creating a safe haven for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safe Environment Website, Diocese of Oakland*

The Diocese of Oakland is committed to the on-going challenge of the US Conference of Bishop's Charter – *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal*. The Safe Environment Project is designed to implement the Charter for the Diocese and has four components:

- background screening of all employees and volunteers
- training of all employees and volunteers
- curriculum designed for training of children, youth and teens
- parish-based Safe Environment committees which function to support the pastor and principal in the implementation of the project on the site.

The Diocese of Oakland's Safe Environment Project is audited every year, as is every Diocese and Eparchy in the U.S. We have met and, in some areas, exceeded compliance requirements.

In 2010 alone, background screening Megan's Law and Livescan fingerprinting were completed with 39,780 volunteers, 1,487 parish/school employees, 1,445 educators, 109 diocesan employees, and 422 priests, deacons and candidates for Ordination. Adult training was provided for 33,244 clergy, employees and volunteers. Finally, 37,698 children, youth and teens participated in curriculum-based lessons focused on personal safety and empowerment and emphasis on recognizing, preventing and reporting abuse.

**To view the Bishop's Appeal video, or for more information on other diocesan ministries, please visit [www.oakdiocese.org](http://www.oakdiocese.org)**