



As loving servants of our Lord, we should always strive to put our faith first. Through and in our Church, we live our faith. The Church is a leader, an example, and a beacon of light we can follow. *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).*

The 2018 Bishop’s Appeal is upon us. This year, I have chosen *Lighting the Way* as the Appeal theme to reflect the Church’s leadership and guidance to all people. Our faith and church serve as our candle, shining brightly before us, lighting our path.

Last year, the goal for the Appeal was \$2.5 million and we successfully raised nearly \$2.8 million. This success would not be possible without the tremendous generosity of our donors. And yet, the needs of our Diocese continue to grow each year. The brochure included with this letter shows the almost \$7.9 million in centrally supported services and ministries at the Diocese, which the Bishop’s Appeal helps fund. These ministries and services include the care for our priests, support for parishes and schools, vocations, seminarian education and formation, young adult ministries, and so much more. In order to support the needs of these invaluable services and ministries, **we have decided to raise the Bishop’s Appeal goal to \$3 million.**

All gifts of all sizes to the Bishop’s Appeal are greatly appreciated. If you are financially able, I ask you to please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider joining our efforts this year by making a gift or pledge of financial support.

May the Church in our Diocese continue to “light the way” for its faithful and loving servants of our Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland