

Parishes to hold special collection for Cardinal Keeler

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore will take up a special collection Aug. 25-26 to honor Cardinal William H. Keeler's 18 years of ministry in Baltimore. Sean Caine, spokesperson for the archdiocese, said the money raised will be used at the discretion of the cardinal to support the ministries and program of the archdiocese - including Catholic education, Catholic Charities and the restored Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

"Knowing the cardinal and his commitment to the programs and services provided by the church, we thought this would be a great way to honor him and the church he has worked so hard to serve," said Mr. Caine, noting that many people have contacted the cardinal's office and the Catholic Center asking about a way they could show their appreciation to Cardinal Keeler.

The idea for the fund was conceived by people close to the cardinal, including the auxiliary bishops and members of the board of financial administration who identified programs that have been of importance to the cardinal, Mr. Caine said.

Donations may be made through parishes or by mailing checks to Cardinal Keeler Fund, Catholic Center, 320 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201.