



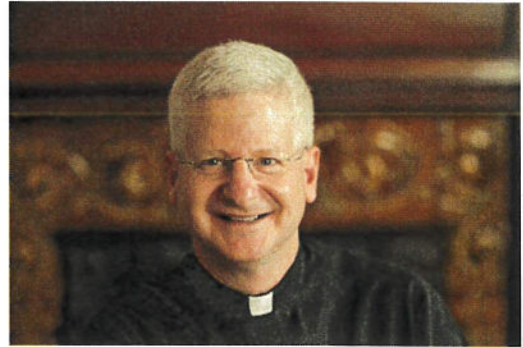
ANNUAL APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write today to share a message about the *Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries* and its importance to the *Seek the City to Come* initiative in which many of our parishes are participating, and the Appeal's importance to the city in which many of us call home.

What does coming home feel like to you?

When I come home after a long day, I am greeted by two cats and three cockatiels. I relax in a space that feels friendly and warm. The purring and chirping sounds comfort me and assure me that I am home.



I also felt at home when I returned to St. Bernardine Parish nine years ago to serve as its Pastor. Years before that I had served the parish as its seminarian under the guidance of Monsignor Ed Miller. I am honored to succeed him in this amazing family of faith. My Church Family has welcomed me with open arms, and I can honestly say that I am home.

Home is both a feeling and a place. It's where we are surrounded by those we love and those who love us. It's where we are in a welcoming space. Home needs our care to maintain it. The Archdiocese of Baltimore has made it a priority to take care of our home, our people, our parishes, and our city with the *Seek the City to Come* initiative.

Across our archdiocese, we have more people in need than ever before: people struggling to put food on the table; people lonely and homebound; parishes and ministries working hard to keep people connected to their faith; and families struggling to deal with economic fallout while still providing safe housing for their children. There is just *so much need*, which is why *Seek the City to Come* has been initiated at just the right time.

Seek the City to Come will focus on assessing the needs of the people and parishes in Baltimore City and then create a plan to ensure that proper resources, programs, and ministries are available for all of us. While we participate in the initiative, however, we must continue to serve those needs through the dozens of programs and ministries we are currently providing.

Continuing to offer those ministries during this time of uncertainty requires our prayers and generosity to the *Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries*. As someone who cares

about our home city of Baltimore, I invite you to share your faith with others and be part of something bigger than any one of us by supporting the programs and ministries funded by the *Annual Appeal*. Through your participation in the Appeal, we can work together to care for our home.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Richard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Reverend Monsignor Richard J. Bozzelli
Pastor, St. Bernardine Parish