

Dear [salutation name],

She has been called the Saint of the Gutters and the Angel of Mercy. Burning with the fire of Christ's unquenchable love, she looked into the faces of the poorest of the poor --- the sick, hungry and dying, the most vulnerable in society --- and she saw the face of Jesus in a most "distressing disguise." St. Teresa of Kolkata spent nearly 70 years of her life in selfless ministry to the world's poor. Today, here in our Diocese, she presents us with a powerful example of how to follow Christ by putting our faith into action.

In the spirit of this most charitable Saint, I am pleased to announce that our appeal theme, taken from Mother Teresa's own words, is: *Faith in Action Is Love, and Love in Action Is Service*. This call to action summons all of us to follow in the spirit and footsteps of St. Teresa by recognizing Jesus in the faces of our brothers and sisters whose needs are addressed by the 28 ministries and agencies supported by our appeal.

Today, I invite you now to renew your support of our Diocese this year by prayerfully considering a gift to the *Annual Partners in Charity Appeal*. In the spirit of St. Teresa, your generous gift will help make possible the critical work that no individual or any one of our nearly 100 parish communities could accomplish alone.

The enclosed brochure provides just a glimpse of the many ministries of our Diocese. All of us are being called to make a difference by putting our faith into action by demonstrating our love for Christ in serving others. Will you please join me in answering that call? I thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request and I pray that God will richly bless you and your loved ones.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester