

Message of Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. for the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal video

Greetings of Peace and all good. In this season of Easter joy, in the midst of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, I come to you to once again invite your participation in the Diocese of Lexington's Annual Appeal.

Since arriving in Lexington in early May of 2015, I have had an exciting year of firsts: The dedication of the new church at Saint Francis in Pikeville, and of the beautifully rebuilt church of Saint Luke in Salyersville were both great occasions for celebrating the vibrant faith and commitment to the future in these communities. I have been privileged to ordain three men to the transitional diaconate and look forward to their priesthood ordinations very soon. My first visits to our parishes and missions throughout the diocese have been especially gratifying. Everywhere I go, I experience a love for the faith and tremendous prayerful support for my ministry. I have also seen the works of mercy in action through so many services offered in our parishes to people of any and all faiths. The work is edifying—and it happens thanks to your support.

The Prayer of Saint Francis says that “it is in giving that we receive”. Throughout the diocese, we know this well. Our faith is an active one and we make a real difference in the communities where we are located. Your support is vital to each of these ministries and allows us to extend the merciful ministry of the Risen Christ in many underserved areas as well as support the fundamental ministries of the church.

Every one of us needs to be part of these ministries conveying God's mercy and abundant love. I invite you to join the activities of your diocese in prayer, in volunteering, and with your financial support. You will find out for yourself how much we receive when we give.

Thanks for all your support. I look forward to many more graced experiences in the diocese this year and in the year ahead; please join in the ministry of our diocese through your continued support.