



## **April 25, 2005 - Archdiocese of Boston Launches 2005 Catholic Appeal**

### ***New Parish Share Component Added***

### ***The Annual Catholic Appeal Funds More Than 80 Programs, Services, Agencies and Ministries Operating Throughout the Archdiocese***

BOSTON – Archbishop Seán P. O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, formally launched the 2005 Catholic Appeal campaign, Our Faith at Work, today at St. Patrick School in Roxbury. The Catholic Appeal, which begins the weekend of April 30-May 1 and runs throughout the year, funds the programs and services made available to Catholics and non-Catholics in 144 communities in five regions in the Archdiocese. The 2005 Catholic Appeal goal is \$12 million.

"We have chosen the message of our 2005 Catholic Appeal--Our Faith At Work--to reflect upon how much good we accomplish when we put our faith to work to serve God and each other," said Archbishop Seán. "The Catholic Appeal provides us the resources to accomplish that much needed work."

Archbishop Seán was joined by Damien DeVasto, director of the Annual Catholic Appeal; Rev. Walter Waldron, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Roxbury; and Craig and Nancy Gibson, lay leaders and regional chairs of the Catholic Appeal.

"The Annual Catholic Appeal is the financial lifeblood of our work as Church," DeVasto said. "With this funding, real and immediate needs are met through an umbrella of services ranging from pastoral care to social services to training of clergy and laity. Donor generosity has had immeasurable benefits for those who live in the Archdiocese."

DeVasto added: "In our 2004 campaign, we raised \$11 million, exceeding our goal of \$10.5 million. More than 54,000 Catholics, 20 percent more than the previous year, gave to the 2004 Appeal. We've come so far these last years, and the support we've received has been very encouraging. There is still more for us to accomplish. Countless individuals benefit from our work, and support for the Appeal is essential."

This year a parish share component has been added to the Catholic Appeal effort. If a parish exceeds its goal, that parish will receive 25 percent of all funds it raised above its goal for use at the parish. In addition, if the Archdiocese exceeds its goal of \$12 million, 25 percent of the funds raised above the Archdiocese's goal will also be returned to the parishes that exceeded their goals. This is an opportunity for parishes to increase parish revenue while still supporting the ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal.

The 2005 Catholic Appeal will conclude in January 2006.

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