



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5500

January 22, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

Your support of the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal changes lives, as evidenced in the following examples:

- Salma Baig is a teacher at an elementary school in the Archdiocese. Your support of the Annual Appeal has funded the Maker's Space Initiative, giving Salma and many other instructors the tools they need to bring science and technology to life for their young students. It provides state-of-the-art education in programming, electronics, and robotics and transforms learning from distant theory to first-hand, personal, and direct experience. As one 4th grader exclaimed after he built a robot (that moves) out of a plastic cup, batteries, a motor, and electrical wire, "...this is way better than school!"
- During his 52 years as a Priest in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, *Fr. Anthony McGuire* has served nine parishes. After retiring at the end of 2015, Fr. McGuire is now in residence at St. Patrick Parish in San Francisco, where he celebrates Mass and assists with other priestly duties. Your support of the Annual Appeal helps pay for many of Fr. McGuire's living and healthcare expenses, ensuring that he is cared for in the same manner as he has served countless others.
- *Lisa* (not her actual name) was married at 19 and not mature enough to fully understand the true meaning of the sacrament of marriage. Because she was immature and married in haste, she got a divorce shortly thereafter. Only many years later did she realize she had grounds to seek an annulment and eventually she got one through the Archdiocesan tribunal. Your support of the Annual Appeal has changed Lisa's life by helping her through the challenge of a marriage annulment so that now, years later, she could fulfill her dream and be married in the Catholic Church.

These are just three of the thousands of people who directly benefit from the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.

The theme for this year's Annual Appeal is "*One Body, One Christ.*" In addition to changing lives, the AAA provides a unique opportunity for each of us to collaborate with our fellow Catholics as "*One Body*" in the eighty-seven parishes of the Archdiocese. Together, we are able to offer significant support to such varied and critical needs as parish ministries and schools, clergy, young adults, social ministries, ecumenical efforts, and the greater Church.

As Catholics, we are united in knowing that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and that we are empowered to use our unique gifts and talents to serve others. We do so through our support of the Annual Appeal, and the vivid demonstrations of support and faith that I witness are a great source of inspiration to me and my ministry.

On behalf of Salma Baig, her fellow teachers and their students, Fr. McGuire, Lisa, and everyone who benefits from your support of the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, I thank you for your past generosity to the AAA and encourage your participation in this year's vital effort.

With my gratitude for your continued support of our Archdiocese, and with my prayerful best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco