

Dear Friends,

After much thought and prayerful reflection and in consideration of the gravity of the findings of the Grand Jury report and the impact it is having on victims, their families and all members of the faithful, I have decided to make some changes to this year's Annual Appeal.

During the course of the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to speak with pastors and hear from parishioners who have shared with me the pain and hurt that everyone is feeling. This is an extremely difficult time for all of us and we must be steadfast in our resolve to support one another and care for those among us who are suffering the most – the victims of sexual abuse and their families.

While we initially planned to move forward with the Diocesan Annual Appeal as we have done in past years, it has become clear to me that we must engage your support in a much different way this year.

With this in mind, some components of the Appeal will be suspended this year – the showing of the Appeal video in the parishes and our In-Pew Commitment Weekend.

We will be requesting support through an Appeal letter to be sent to past Appeal donors in September. There will also be pledge envelopes in the back of your Church for anyone wishing to make a gift to the Annual Appeal. The Appeal video is

available on our website: www.AnnualAppeal.org and I encourage you to view the video which shares stories about some of the wonderful ministries that rely on your gifts each year.

I am sincerely grateful to you for your understanding and prayers and for your continued interest in supporting the Diocese. There has never been a more important time in the history of our Diocese for us to come together as one to meet the needs of our Diocese and the people we serve.

With your support, we will restore trust, care for all who seek our assistance and once again bring hope to our people.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

