

March 4, 2009

Dear St. Stephen Parishioner,

I was at a talk by Jim Wallis of "Sojourners" over the weekend in which he said that the best support given by parishioners to their church was in 1933, during the Great Depression.

This made me think about our current recession and the economic headache that most of us experience these days. The speaker invited us to view the crisis as an opportunity to strengthen the church and make it more effective in ministering to God's people in these tough times.

I write to you today and extend that invitation to help our Archbishop be more effective in his ministry to the people of San Francisco by lending your financial support to this year's **Archbishop's Annual Appeal**.

Archbishop Niederauer was directly appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to minister to our people in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. We all have a duty to support our chief pastor in his difficult and complex role as shepherd of the flock.

Our parish assessment for 2009 amounts to \$69,300. When you compare this to the assessments of the other parishes in the Archdiocese, we are a tad more than mid-range. You may compare them on the AAA display in our church vestibule.

More than 200 St. Stephen families supported AAA in 2008 (please see reverse). Forty of those folks matched my donation of \$500. I invite more of you to do so this year. For those families who have not participated before, a donation of just \$6 per month or \$72 annually from every family will help us meet our goal.

I thank you in advance for your generosity to our Archbishop this year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe Walsh  
Pastor

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I want to match Father Joe's \$500 donation to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Enclosed is my check made payable to AAA.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I want to pledge my support to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Enclosed is my donation of:**

◇ **\$250**                      ◇ **\$100**                      ◇ **\$72**                      ◇ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to AAA Campaign, St. Stephen Church, 451 Eucalyptus Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132 or use the enclosed self-mailer which includes options to pay by credit card.**