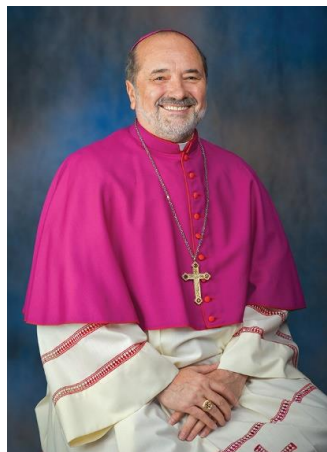




83RD ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER



My dear friends in Christ,

The theme of our 83rd Annual Catholic Appeal, “**Renew the Face of the Earth,**” reminds us that our acts of charity and love renew those around us. With each outstretched helping hand, we create a small ripple effect of care. This kindness spreads and allows us to play a part in renewing the face of the entire earth – starting here in our Diocese of Fall River.

All around us are signs of spring, reawakening our surroundings after a long winter. Having just celebrated Christ’s glorious resurrection, our spirits, too, have experienced a rebirth, stepping out of the darkness and into the light.

Through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, God is constantly reaffirming us. In the Book of Genesis, Noah uses a dove to deliver signs of receding floodwaters back to the arc: the promise of a new beginning after a period of trial and adversity. Even then, hope came on the wings of a dove.

How can we be modern-day messengers of renewal? As a united, active Church focused on the Gospel, the teachings, and the presence of Jesus. Together the faithful of the Diocese of Fall River will renew the face of the earth, renew our faith community, renew a spirit of hope and joy, and renew our Church.

This year, we celebrate our 120th anniversary as a diocese. I can think of no better way to mark this historic milestone than by joining together in support of the Catholic Appeal. Should your circumstances allow, please consider making a contribution of any size to help us carry out our mission. When what we believe in our hearts extends to what we do in our everyday lives, we can – and will – make a positive impact on the lives of those in need throughout our diocese.

Holy Spirit, renew our joy. Holy Spirit, renew our faith. Help us renew the face of the earth!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River



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