



2278 Booksin Avenue • San Jose, CA 95125-4701

9 January 2012

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

My dear Member of St. Christopher Parish:

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the baptism of the Lord, we remind ourselves of our own individual baptism by which we were incorporated into the Body of Christ. Through baptism into the faith, we were “grafted” into Christ’s Body, the Church for our sanctification and spiritual survival. The Church exists in two realities – the universal Church headed by the Pope and the local Church headed by our bishop. Since the creation of the Diocese of San Jose more than thirty years ago, our Parish has always been very supportive and generous to respond to its needs. We have continued to work collaboratively with the ministry of the Diocese of San Jose and support its mission to serve our people.

On behalf of Bishop Patrick McGrath, I would like to thank the extra-generous parishioners who supported last year’s Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA). I am happy to report that we not only met our goal, but went over by \$46,076, which will be rebated back to the Parish. It is now time once again for me to ask for your support. ADA 2012 is here. Your support will allow the Diocese to fund the different diocesan ministries including social justice, detention ministry, youth and young adult, lay formation, formation of seminarians and priests, tribunal, and other noble ministries, as well as benefiting our Parish by the amount received over our goal. The 2012 goal set by the Diocese for St. Christopher Parish is \$239,057. To meet all of our financial obligations to both the Diocese and the Parish, I am asking for the financial support of all of our parish families. As in the past, I have recommended a gift of \$1,000 per family. I realize that this continues to be difficult financial times for many of our families and I realize that not all can give \$1,000, so I ask that you give what you honestly can. I also ask that those of you who have been blessed financially pledge more than the requested amount. **All** pledges are of great importance to me, so I ask that you please reflect deeply and prayerfully regarding your response to this appeal.

I believe that nothing is impossible if we work as one community and offer our sacrifices to our Lord Jesus Christ. I encourage you to respond to our ADA appeal in a timely fashion and I will appreciate if you will return your pledge envelopes during the Sunday masses on January 22, 2012.

No one is too sure about what the New Year will bring us. The year that has just dawned upon us may or may not find us in difficult financial times. What is sure, though, is that God continues to bless His people and that you, my dear parishioner, have always been generous to your Parish and the Diocese beyond measure. Your response to last year’s appeal has filled my heart with so much hope and gratitude. More members of our Parish have offered their support and with an even greater average gift than before! You have continued to amaze me and I value all your sacrifices for our Church.

This New Year, I come to you once again. As your stewardship in the past has supported my ministry as your pastor, I express my gratitude to you - in advance - for doing so once more.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Rev. Msgr. Wilfredo S. Manrique

Msgr. Willie S. Manrique
Pastor