## **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - CDA 2021**

Dear St. Andrew,

What a difference a year makes, especially when that year was as weird as the one we have just left behind us. Welcome to this still infant year 2021, loaded with all the hopes and opportunities so much needed to propel us to a brighter future.

Last year around this time you were probably sitting in the pews, listening to me give a homily in which I invited you to consider making your usual contributions towards our part of the CDA which we do annually. That was shortly before COVID-19 hit. If many of you can recall, after my homily, I invited you to pick up an intention form, sign your name, and make a gift towards the more than 70 Catholic ministries and programs that our diocese supports through the annual Charity & Development Appeal. Those commitment cards were then collected by the ushers, something we are not able to do this year. Through your contribution, our diocese was able to raise over a million dollars which helped significantly the many families hurt by the pandemic. For your generosity, I am grateful to you and may God bless you for that!

This year, things are different because most of us are not in the pews. Moreover, we are also continuing to fight this global pandemic while trying to stay safe, healthy, and holy. Despite this reality, dear friends, we can still come together and do the Lord's work by being conduits of his generosity to those of our brothers and sisters still hurting as we did this past year. Yes, through the many Catholic ministries and programs that need our support in our diocese, we can do this. More than ever, therefore, I hope that you, the great, generous and faithful parishioners of our parish St. Andrew, will join me in supporting those ministries today.

Even though I will not be with you this weekend and for the next few weekends, as I travel home to visit my family, know that I fully support and cherish this appeal because of the impact it is making in our diocese. You will soon be hearing the testimony of Kathy and Pete Bergmann, our parish co-chairs representing the diocese, as they share with us why they are also passionate about supporting the CDA.

However, I invite you now to take a couple of minutes to watch the <u>CDA video</u> that will also be shown this weekend at Mass – you will see exactly how the light of Christ will equally shine through you with your CDA gift.

Please take a moment now and make a gift today: https://give.dphx.org

Thank you, St. Andrew, and know that I always love you!