



Faith working through love.

Cardinal DiNardo's letter, to be read at Mass on Commitment Sunday

(February 2 and 3, 2013)

My dear friends in Christ,

The blessings and beauty of God's love for us are manifested in the compassion and generosity by which he provides for our needs. In October of last year, our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, inaugurated the Year of Faith, calling Catholics all over the world to deepen their understanding of the true faith and to develop their personal holiness to the highest degree possible. Faith is "a gift of God which transforms and enriches our life," Pope Benedict XVI says, "At the same time, the gift of faith is given in and through the community of the Church." Our faith teaches us that, as the Body of Christ, we are united to our brothers and sisters by a bond created by His Precious Blood. And our faith also calls us to love our neighbor in imitation of His love, which has so enriched our lives.

Within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, many individuals and families continue to experience personal hardship due to various social circumstances and economic downturn. The ministries supported by the Diocesan Services Fund are able to assist those who need them because of the generosity of parishioners like you who contribute to DSF. Today marks the first weekend of the Diocesan Services Fund 2013, and I kindly ask that you all pray for the pastoral ministries that assist and operate within the Archdiocese.

Your DSF contribution benefits over 60 diocesan organizations and charitable ministries including the *Office of Vocations*, *Office of Young Adults and Campus Ministry* and *Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program*, which you will see highlighted in this year's video. I ask that you prayerfully consider a contribution to DSF, even if it cannot be a great sum.

I offer my sincere gratitude for your openness to participating in the Church's mission of charitable outreach. I take the success of and your generous contributions to DSF in the past years as a sign of your continued prayerful support, something I have relied upon for many years. It is my prayer that in the gift of yourself to the Lord and in service of His People, you will encounter Christ more deeply in this Year of Faith.

With my prayers for God's continued blessings on each of you, I remain

Your faithful Shepherd,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston