

2021 BISHOP'S APPEAL PRAYER

As sisters and brothers, bound together in the mission of our great Diocese of Oakland, we come into Your presence, gracious God, with gratitude and awe.

We call on our blessed Mother, Queen of the World, along with St. Francis of Assisi and all the great saints who brought forth renewal and new life, to accompany us in the 'rebuilding' of our Church and of our world.

With our hearts and hands outstretched to receive the *other* and impart healing and hope, we dedicate our energies and resources to that new life, which You, gracious God, are bringing forth now, already, in the midst of the disorientation and birthing pains that are also a part of our present circumstances.

You, O God, are Creator and Lord of all. For this we, the bishop, priests, ministers and all the faithful of the Diocese, give You abundant thanks.

With our beloved St. Francis we, too, cry out: '*Laudato Si'*' ... Praise to You, O Lord!