

## **Archbishop Zinkula's Letter for the 2024 Annual Appeal**

### **Request to be read at Masses, February 10-11, 2024**

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."*

*Matthew 5: 13 - 16*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As faithful communities of salt and light, we are called to stand as beacons of hope to those facing adversity, serving as a testament to the boundless grace of God working through us as a gift to one another and the world.

This year, our annual fundraising appeal at Catholic Charities bears a special theme - "Be the Light." Drawing inspiration from the enduring message of faith and compassion found in the Gospel of Matthew, we invite you to join us in illuminating the lives of those most vulnerable in our community.

The critical work of Catholic Charities, firmly rooted in Catholic Social Teachings, brings together the sanctity of family, community, and the dignity of the human person. These principles are the foundation of our moral vision for society. They are based on our recognition that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Embracing the call to love one another, we also bear the responsibility of ensuring universal access to the common good, enabling every person not only to survive but to thrive.

Let us not forget that it is the collective radiance of our individual lights that weaves a vibrant tapestry of compassion and love. Thank you for your generous commitment to our annual appeal and all the ways you are sharing the light of Christ throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque. I am grateful for your continued benevolence.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Thomas R. Zinkula  
Archbishop of Dubuque