

Office of the Bishop

My dear friends in Christ Jesus:

This is Bishop Alvaro Corrada, the Bishop of Tyler – your bishop. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, I come to you with the voice of Jesus Christ himself. I come as your humble shepherd. Today, I ask you to hear and respond to my call, *The Bishop's Appeal*: Live abundantly! Live in Jesus! Live in the beatitudes Jesus gives to us! Enjoy true freedom as sons and daughters of God!

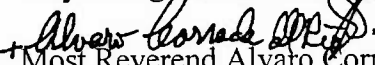
As your bishop, I am truly grateful and delighted that more Catholic households are giving alms through *The Bishop's Appeal* than ever before! In spite of the most difficult economic times in recent memory, nearly twelve hundred more Catholic households are giving alms this year than gave last year! I thank you for that. We need more. We need everyone.

Even though the Church is struggling to make ends meet in much the same way families are struggling, we enjoy life abundantly – many wonderful works are happening. With the alms you give to the Church through *The Bishop's Appeal*:

- ❖ You are helping Catholic Charities to enter its fifth successful year of ministry to the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the immigrant. Already, you have helped Catholic Charities feed the hungry poor with nearly three hundred eighty-eight thousand meals since 2007.
- ❖ You are helping to feed those who hunger and thirst for God. In 2007, four hundred sixty-four people entered the Church. One year later, seven hundred fourteen people entered the Church in 2008.
- ❖ You give alms and thirty-two hundred catechists are trained to help you form your children and family in the Catholic faith, where five years ago there were only 300 catechists in formation.
- ❖ You give alms and more than six thousand adults are engaged in formal adult faith formation.
- ❖ You give alms and thirty-one hundred children and adults are confirmed in the faith last year.
- ❖ You are helping to form 34 aspirants to the permanent diaconate. And, we have over ten young women of this diocese entering consecrated life and three young men.
- ❖ You are helping to form our seminarians. In just the last twelve months, I ordained four new priests for our parishes and missions.
- ❖ Happily, God then sent us that many men and more who are discerning their call to the priesthood. (There is no shortage of seminarians, only a shortage of funds to support their formation.)
- ❖ In the next twelve months – in this “Year for Priests” – I hope to celebrate the ordination of four more priests and then three or four priests every year for the next several years.

All these things are possible because of God's grace and because of your cooperation with God's grace. Let us continue to live abundantly; to live in Jesus; to live in his beatitude; to enjoy true freedom as sons and daughters of God. Let us continue to give alms to Holy Mother Church through *The Bishop's Appeal* and give generously. Know that the alms you give in secret will remain sacred – holy and hidden from the eyes of others. And the Father, who sees in secret, will reward you with abundant life – a share in the life and love of the Most Holy Trinity.

May God grant us all his abundant life,


+ Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, S.J.
Bishop of Tyler

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