

HOMILY – ABA PRE-APPEAL

April 25, 2010

Father Jim Carini

“We are his people, the sheep of his flock”

Every year on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we reflect upon Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He has come among us to lead us into the light. His risen life has given us new hope that the darkness of pain, suffering and evil throughout our world cannot extinguish the light of new life that we have in his resurrection. We are called to continue to bring Christ's light to one another in our communities throughout the world.

Each year the Diocese uses the Annual Bishop's Appeal to help the parishes and the Diocese become centers of light for the world. The various works and ministries supported by the Appeal are works of justice and charity, reflecting God's own desire to make us his cooperators, people who reflect God's light.

This weekend is Pre-Appeal Sunday throughout our Diocese as we get ready for Appeal Sunday next week and pledge our support to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. So much good is being done in our Diocese and beyond through your generous giving to the ABA. One of the examples this year is the outpouring of support for the Haiti relief effort after the devastating earthquake on January 12th. Our missionary work in that country comes from direct support of each of you who give to the ABA. Without your giving we wouldn't be on the ground in Haiti to help the Haitian people recover from that terrible earthquake.

Bishop Cote speaks about that outreach and other areas of ministry that the ABA funds. As I did last year, I am going to ask you to listen to what he has to say in his own words that are recorded on an audio CD. Let's listen to him for a few moments....

(We also have Bishop Cote on a video that will be playing downstairs after Mass. I ask that you get a cup of coffee and a donut and watch this video. It is excellent.) Next weekend I ask you to come to Mass prepared to make a pledge or a gift to the 2010 ABA. During this coming week please prayerfully consider what you, as an individual and a family, can pledge to support the educational, spiritual and outreach services offered by our Diocese. These programs and ministries serve people in ways that we as an individual parish could never do. The ABA is a family effort. That you for your generous support!