

Fr. Schuster's 2019 Bishop's Appeal Sample Letter

In the basketball world we are familiar with calling someone the “6th man.” A starting basketball team consists of 5 players, but without a very qualified player regularly rotating-in the team will grow tired and experience defeat. This additional player often remains unseen, nor does he/she get a lot of attention or fame. Nonetheless, his/her presence and support is just as important as the skill level that he/she possesses. Personally, I decided to leave basketball and become a wrestler prior to high school because I was the “11th man” on the court and that was not a fun place to be. The “6th man” is essential!

Today we begin our 2019 Bishop's Appeal campaign! The Bishop is our coach, we are his starting team in Luxemburg on the mission of leading souls to heaven. The fine people working on his behalf across the diocese represent our “6th man.” You do not always see the work of Catholic Charities, of the Vicar General (Fr. Dan Felton), of the Marriage Tribunal, and diocesan archives, just to name a few. We could not possibly afford our own counseling services and worship director here in our parishes, so at a fraction of the cost, they serve as our “6th man.” As pastor, I usually call upon the resources of the Bishop's staff in tangible ways on up to 4 days per week.

Our Bishop's Appeal goal is \$52,775 which is roughly the salary of 1 professional worker. Meanwhile, we reap the benefit of having over 100 additional players on our team. Please give generously to the Bishop's Appeal. Next to our own needs, this is the most important financial obligation. We are not Catholic Christians without the presence and the work of the Bishop. We are not a team without our 6th player. If everyone gives what they gave last year, and only a little bit more, we can meet our goal by July 1st! I will make my gift at each parish this weekend, please be generous in supporting the team.