



DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane
Bishop of Washington

November 13, 2007

Dear Rectors, Vicars and Priests-in-Charge:

I am writing to you asking for your commitment of financial support for the work of the Diocese during the coming year.

As you prepare your congregation's budget for the forthcoming year our hope is that you will consider the level of giving to the Diocese as a meaningful commitment to important ministries we carry out as a larger community. Some highlights from among these ministries include—

- development of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys in Southeast Washington, East of the Anacostia River
- diocesan-supported college chaplaincies at the University of Maryland, Howard University and Bowie State University
- financial support to four of our six Latino congregations in the diocese
- international missionary work carried out through the national organization of the Episcopal Church
- ministry with the deaf at St. Barnabas Church of the Deaf
- diocesan-supported youth and young adult programs
- financial and consulting assistance to congregations in crisis

We depend on your support for these and other programmatic ministries as well as for our ability to continue to provide the diocesan services that are routinely available to all of our congregations. These services range from Web design, web hosting and internet security services to cooperative purchasing agreements, insurance administration and property management assistance.

We rely on the voluntary giving of our congregations to support these ministries. At the Diocesan Convention in 2001 the minimum 10% norm was adopted; in 2007, 23 of our congregations supported the work of the Diocese at or above this level. We commend you to think of your giving to the Diocese as an intentional investment in our shared ministries and to determine a level of giving in an intentional manner and not as a residual or balancing item in your congregational budget.

We hope that you and your Vestry will give prayerful consideration to our request for support of the work of the Diocese in 2008. A pledge form is enclosed. We ask that you make every effort to return your pledge by December 31, 2007.

In Christ's Peace, Power and Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bryson Chane". To the left of the first letter of the first name is a small cross symbol.

The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, D.D.
Bishop of Washington

cc: Wardens