

Espiritu Santo, Safety Harbor, FL

A joyous and exciting new year is upon us! As we look forward to welcoming a new bishop, let us remember how throughout our diocesan history we have been blessed with four bishops who have taught, sanctified, and shepherded hundreds of thousands. Working together with dedicated clergy, religious and laity, these bishops have built this family of faith, and through their witness, visions and generous self-sacrifice, they have shared the light of Christ which burns within them.

Espiritu Santo parish is the beneficiary of a rich history and we rejoice in the hope that has been provided to us. As baptized Catholics, we share in the responsibility of building up the Kingdom of God and ensuring the continued vitality of our local diocesan Church for future generations. The Annual Pastoral Appeal takes place every year in all the parishes of the diocese. It supports the work and ministry no one parish can do alone. It is part of our mission together as a diocese.

Our 2017 Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA) theme, **Rejoice in Hope**, provides a sense of purpose and direction for our diocese as we meet the challenges of today and work toward the future to make our Church ever more vibrant and relevant. The APA is an essential way to reach beyond ourselves and our parish and give hope to others through the diversity of our ministries, programs and services which enrich a Christ-centered way of life. This includes outreach to the poor and marginalized, Catholic education and faith formation, Christian Discipleship and faithful support to the life and ministry of our seminaries, clergy, religious, and all who serve the Church. This is the ongoing pastoral work of the Church that will leave a legacy of hope to those who seek the love and mercy of our Lord for generations to come.

I am honored to be a part of this wonderful parish and diocese. Please join me with your own contribution to the APA, for if we are united for the same purpose, amidst uncertainty, possibility and promise, we will continue to build the Kingdom of God in our parishes and our diocese in ways that we cannot imagine! **You** are a necessary and essential person in this work of faith.

As I hold you in my prayers, I also ask you to pray for me and for the success of our 2017 Annual Pastoral Appeal. May God richly bless you and your loved ones.

Together with you in ministry,

Fr. Len  
Pastor