



## ANNUAL ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

### ACCOMPANY WITH JOY, GIVE WITH GRACE

### Hospital Ministry *♪*

#### YOUR APPEAL GIFT OF MERCY *♪*



The Archdiocese Hospital Chaplaincy is a ministry of the Catholic community supported by the Annual Archbishop's Appeal. Hospital Ministry chaplain, Fr. Tomy Raphael, continues to serve the sick in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic, sharing, *"When the pandemic first began, I could personally visit the sick in hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities. But as the pandemic spread and specific guidelines were issued by local authorities, in person visits were restricted by hospitals"*. He started to look for different ways to accompany the sick and meet the needs of patients and their families. Through virtual platforms, he prays with patients, their families and friends. It has been an opportunity to minister while providing comfort and opening hearts and minds to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Given the current restrictions for visitors and volunteers entering hospitals, finding ways to reach and accompany the sick is even more important than ever. The pandemic has created a significant increase in the number of patients and family members requesting a priest. There are times when the situation is critical and time is a factor, requiring Fr. Tomy to virtually provide the patient or their family consolation, prayer and blessings to those in immediate need.

Hospital volunteers that are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are currently not allowed to visit Catholic patients room to room. However, many volunteers pray during the hours they would have normally been at the hospital visiting patients. Parish groups have made and donated thousands of rosaries that are sanitized, blessed and individually packaged for the sick and healthcare workers. Some have made family prayer bags containing rosaries, prayer cards, get well cards, or care messages. Parish prayer groups are encouraged to support the grieving with ongoing emotional and spiritual care, such as a phone call to check in on others.

When hospital restrictions are lifted and safety guidelines are established for volunteers, if you are in good physical health and are being called to serve the sick, please contact [elizabeth.ramirez@archsa.org](mailto:elizabeth.ramirez@archsa.org). Your gift is at work ministering to the sick and aiding the most vulnerable.

As God's faithful steward, please make your one-time gift or pledge today:  
**TEXT to GIVE at (210) 750-6712, keyword: APPEAL • Go to [www.archsa.org/archbishops-appeal](http://www.archsa.org/archbishops-appeal) and click "DONATE."** •