

March 25, 2018

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Dear «Salutation,»

May the Lord give you peace!

Just a few days ago, we began our highly anticipated Diocesan Sesquicentennial celebration. There is so much to look forward to, and I am inviting you to look ahead and consider sharing in the opportunities in your area that will launch us into the next age of our encounter with faith and works in our beloved Diocese.

A short while back you were contacted about making a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We have not heard back from you. Along with our Sesquicentennial, this year's appeal theme, *Stewards of Hope*, reminds us that our brothers and sisters who came before us entrusted us with their gifts for the continuous mission of Jesus.

Today I am asking that you add to them, your unique gifts so they may provide healing for those who are suffering in the brokenness of heart, living lives of despair and who are seeking the joy and peace of knowing our Lord. The Diocesan Annual Appeal is one vital way to share in this miracle. Your gift to the Annual Appeal helps to carry the hope of Jesus Christ throughout our Diocese of La Crosse – in our parishes, schools, and ministries.

This year we passed a significant milestone of very own Servant of God, Father Joseph Walijewski's path to sainthood. Fr. Joe, whose joy-filled heart, took the mission of boldly proclaiming the Gospel, to the furthest reaches, bringing hope to those whose lives were some the most desperate in the world. In these days of Lord's Passion, please prayerfully consider supporting all those who, like Fr. Joe, without your generous response to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, would not be able to fulfill their call. Thank you for your generous support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal in the past. Your generosity provides for many of the channels for grace in our community. During this Lenten and Easter season, please make a gift to this year's Appeal

May God bless you and your family.

Very truly yours in Christ,

P.S. For more information about the annual appeal of how your gift will help to *Stewards of Hope*, please visit [diolc.org/hope](http://diolc.org/hope) and may God continue to bless you and your loved ones.