



<<Date>>

<<Name>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<City State Zip>>

Dear <<Salutation>>,

May the Lord give you Peace!

Our highly anticipated Diocesan Sesquicentennial celebration begins next March. There is so much to look forward to, and I am certainly looking forward to your participation in the opportunities in your area that will launch us into the next age of encounter of faith and works for our Diocese.

As always when a church group approaches an anniversary such as a Sesquicentennial, we take a moment to reflect on those who became before us, their sacrifices, their pains, their joys, and most especially their hopes. The realization of their hope the door through which we pass, and now hold open for those who will follow us with hope for the future. Now is our time to steward this gift of hope for the future. As our Holy Father Pope Francis recently noted, "A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. Then there will be another 'you,' and another 'you,' and then it turns into an 'us.'" When we join our neighbors by contributing to the Diocesan Annual Appeal – *Stewards of Hope*—we become the 'us' our Holy Father speaks of; your prayers and financial gifts enable us to support many charitable, pastoral and educational works in our Diocese and throughout the Church as instructed by our Lord Jesus Christ.

In gratitude and a genuine spirit of Hope, I humbly ask that in your charity you, please renew your gift of << last year gift amount>> for the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your sacrificial gift helps support 38 ministries in our diocese and greater Church. Ministerial works of faith that provide incredible acts of mercy inspiring a hope filled tomorrow in our brothers and sisters in Christ. As His disciples, Jesus Christ, commands us all to be Stewards of Hope but without your help, the work of our diocese the work of the greater Church to fulfill that mission diminishes.

Thank you for your generous spirit and continued participation. May God reward you and bless you and your family.