



DIOCESE of LACROSSE

<<Date>> [Mailings before October 3]

<<Name>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<City State Zip>>

Dear <<Salutation>>,

May the Lord give you Peace!

I hope you will join in the festivities for our Solemn Diocesan Sesquicentennial Mass on October 7, 2018, at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. The Mass and reception following will mark the culmination of our yearlong festival celebrating our past 150 years. There is still so much to look forward to, and your stewardship of time, talents, and treasures will launch us into the next generation of encountering of Christ and His works for our Diocese.

Once again we take a moment to reflect on those who came before us, their sacrifices, their pains, their joys, and most especially their labors, hopes and dreams for a good and viable future. I am consistently awestruck by the beauty of life in our parish communities. Pope Francis reminds us of our mission, "Jesus teaches us: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit." We Catholics make a difference in the communities we serve, very much like our Servant of God, Father Joseph Walijewski. His faith, his works, and his hopes changed the communities in the faraway lands of Bolivia and Peru. When you invest in the Diocesan Annual Appeal –*Endurance in Hope*—your prayers and financial gifts enable our Diocese to continue given mission with zeal through many of the charitable, pastoral, and educational works we do.

In gratitude and a genuine spirit of Hope, I humbly ask that in your charity you, please renew your investment of << last year's gift amount>> in the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your sacrificial gift benefits 38 ministries in our Diocese and the wider Church. The ministerial works of faith that provide incredible acts of mercy inspire a hope-filled tomorrow in our brothers and sisters in Christ. As His disciples, Jesus instructs us all to work in Faith, labor in Love, and endure in Hope to fulfill His mission for our Diocese and the worldwide Church.

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

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Bishop Signature