

Dear <<Salutation>>,

May the Lord give you peace.

It has been a difficult and challenging year. None of us could have imagined how much a pandemic would change our lives. The loss of jobs or a significant portion of wages has affected many. The sense of isolation is real as we keep a safe distance from loved ones and friends. It has upended our children's education, and their future seems to be in disarray. The daily news leaves us with a feeling of uncertainty and helplessness, and we watch as some of our cities burn with divisiveness, anger, and frustration. Yet in our dire moments, we hear the gentle whisper of hope.

The pandemic has impacted every area of our lives, including our faith. We gathered for live-streamed Mass on Easter Sunday, not knowing that months later, we would still be unable to celebrate Mass together as a full and united community. It is upsetting for all of us because our Church has always been our rock in troubled times, our lighthouse guiding us safely home from stormy seas.

Never lose faith! Never give up hope! Our love for Christ and His love for us can never be compromised. The world still needs His Church. ***His Church is still here*** because ***His Church is you and me***, and ***His Church still provides!***

In our lifetimes, there has never been a greater need for we, the Church, to embrace the hope found in Jesus Christ. One of the great missions of the Church is to instill a Christ-centered hope. This hope we are talking about is in terms of our relationship with the Church, with loving one another, with taking the Gospel imperatives and making them work. This hope goes a lot further than just the things that we can control. This hope aides and heals. This hope strengthens us and brings us to a new awareness of whom we live for and of why we live.

The Diocesan Appeal helps us to accomplish so many of those things that heal, strengthen, and awakening our sense of who we are. Each year, the Diocesan Annual Appeal provides each of us with the opportunity to embrace His call for us to live a life of stewardship and loving thy neighbor. Your support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal is the lifeblood of the 38 ministries of charitable and good works our diocesan community so gallantly provides. These ministries offer the healing, teaching, and redemptive presence of Jesus Christ throughout the nineteen counties of southwest Wisconsin.

Last year, your generous support to the Diocesan Annual Appeal ensured that these essential ministries were able to fulfill their charitable mission. Your example inspired others within our diocese to follow and provide generous and sacrificial stewardship. However, because 2020 has been uniquely challenging, it is my sincere hope that you prayerfully consider participating in this vital campaign. When we come together as a community in funding the Diocesan Annual Appeal, we become the hope that Christ calls us to be.

Thank you and may God Bless you.

Very truly yours in Christ,