April 4, 2022

Dear << Salutation >>

During his sermon for the *Celebration of Penance and Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, the Holy Father, reminded us that the Archangel Gabriel twice told Mary, "Do not be afraid," a reassuring message of God's enduring mercy. Unfortunately, the need for Christ's mercy is no more evident in the horrors of war flashing across the screens daily on the news. The loss of life and the crippling assault on our humanity weighs heavy. Yet, we are blessed only to experience the peripheral effects of war for most of us.

However, as our diocese carries out our Christ-given mission, we are a part of the healing and care of those most affected by conflict and its resulting destruction. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, we support several ministries that work in some of the world's most extreme poverty and war-ravaged areas. By supporting the Diocesan Annual Appeal, we demonstrate our solidarity with those in the other parts of the world.

The USCCB's sponsored ministry *Church in Central and Eastern Europe Collection* has long been part of our Annual Appeal supported ministries. The *Church in Central and Eastern Europe Collection* brings Christ's light to the faithful. This collection is the essential funding source in the region to bring God's healing and by which the Church helps lift those affected by the oppression of communism, the darkness of war.

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal collects funding for the eleven different USCCB ministries. These ministries work in some of the most remote and dangerous parts of the world, bringing the Gospels and serving the needs of the human person. To learn of one family's journey from civil war, to refugee camps, to the safety, opportunity, and prosperity of Central Wisconsin, please visit our Annual Appeal website diolc.org/stewardship. Therefore, as we prepare for Easter, let us hope in the risen Lord, reflecting on His oneness with the Father and the Holy Spirit to be open to God's inspiration.

Our mission is "*To worship God, teach the Catholic faith, and serve the needs of the human person."* Last year, your generous support to the Diocesan Annual Appeal ensured that we lived out our mission. Will you open your heart to be inspired by the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for your opportunity to renew your investment in this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal? Please know that your sacrificial gift is a source of inspiration and a witness to our faith that unites us with others in Christ. Through authentic discipleship, stewardship, and active parish life, being united helps us deepen our connection with Christ and solidify the reality that "We all are the Diocese."

Thank you, and may God Bless you this Easter and beyond.

P.S. If you have already sent in a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Thank you!