

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Our Lord Jesus.

I was recently appointed 11th Bishop of La Crosse. It is humbling to witness such warmth and generosity extended to me, and I am filled with hope for the future we will build together.

Today, I am reaching out to you for your assistance in joining our Diocesan Annual Appeal. As coworkers in God's service, we are, as St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3:9, called to cultivate the field of this world and to construct a dwelling place for God's love and mercy. Your unique role is not just important; it is vital in creating this spiritual home built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. Your contribution, no matter how small, is a significant part of our collective mission, and we deeply value your involvement and need your assistance.

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal serves as a testament to our shared mission. It is a call to action to support the vital ministries that nurture our communities, educate our children in faith, educate and form the current and next generation of clergy, and extend the hands of Christ to the needy and marginalized, evangelizing far and wide. Your donations will fund these initiatives, ensuring every gift is a seed sown in the fertile ground and in the coming of God's Kingdom. Just as St. Paul emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation among believers, your involvement is crucial in building a Church that reflects the love of Christ to all.

I ask you to consider the profound impact your donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal can have. Regardless of size, your gift is a powerful testament to your faith and an investment in our collective mission to make God's love visible in our communities. Your donation, no matter the amount, has the power to transform lives and lay the stones for a foundation of faith and service that will endure for generations to come.

In Christ's service and with deepest thanks, I urge you to partake in this opportunity to affirm our faith and expand our reach. Your role as fellow laborers in God's vineyard is crucial to the mission of spreading the Gospel and serving those in need. Let us work together and be committed to Jesus' mission.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift, or visit our website at www.dioc.org/coworker to make a secure online donation. Your response to this appeal will be a clear sign of your commitment to the work of God in our Diocese.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your prayerful consideration and the many ways you contribute to the life of our Church. We sincerely appreciate your prayerful consideration and are genuinely grateful for your support. Your thoughtful consideration of this appeal, along with your past contributions, is a testament to your commitment to the work of God in our Diocese. For my part, I pledge not to cheer for the Detroit Lions if you consider a donation to the appeal.

In all seriousness, though, may God bless you for your kind consideration and prayerful support.