

November 14, 2024

Dear << Salutation >>,

May the hope, peace, and grace of Jesus's Most Sacred Heart be upon you!

As I continue to learn my way around the 19 counties of our dioceses serving as your Bishop, even though the weather is turning colder, your warmth and generosity of our Diocesan family each day fills me with renewed hope for the future we are building together, grounded in faith, love, and community.

In that spirit, I am again inviting you to support our Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your past contributions, instrumental in our shared mission, have made a significant impact. St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3:9 that we are coworkers in God's service, called to cultivate this world as a dwelling place for His love and mercy. Your role in this mission is not just appreciated; it is essential. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us build a spiritual home on the foundation of Christ and extends our outreach to those in need. You are not just a donor but a vital part of our community, and your past contributions have been invaluable, shaping the very fabric of our shared mission.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is a vital expression of our shared mission, enabling ministries that nurture our communities, educate our children and seminarians, and offer Christ's compassion to the marginalized. With your support, we can continue to sow seeds that will bear fruit for generations, building a Church that radiates Christ's love in every corner of our Diocese.

I ask that you pray about this and consider the impact your future gift could make. Regardless of its amount, your donation can transform lives and make God's love visible in our communities. Prayer is a powerful tool, and I encourage you to seek God's guidance in this decision. Your prayers connect us spiritually and guide us in our mission. Through prayer and action, we can strengthen the foundation of faith and service for years, and together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

Please consider using the enclosed envelope or visiting our website at www.diolc.org/coworker to make a secure online donation. Your response will powerfully affirm our shared commitment to God's work in our Diocese.

Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers, and all the ways you enrich the life of our Church. Your faith and acts of love are a beacon of hope for us. We are deeply grateful for your past support, which has been a source of strength and inspiration for our work. Your past support has been invaluable, and we recognize and appreciate your commitment to our shared mission. Your past support has been a testament to your dedication and a driving force behind our progress.

As we begin our joyous anticipation of this Advent season, may God bless you abundantly for your thoughtful consideration and steadfast support.

In Christ's service and with deep gratitude, I wish you and yours a joyful and blessed Advent and Christmas.

Bishop Battersby

PS: Many in our community give stock, a grant from their donor-advised funds, Qualified Charitable Distribution (RMD/QCD), or commodities, all of which can be tax-lowering ways of participating.