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Office of the Bishop

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Please know that you have been in my daily prayers throughout this difficult time. I continue to find strength, peace and hope in our loving God and I pray that you do also.

As we begin the season of Lent, we do so with a deep desire to strengthen our relationship with Jesus. One such way is through giving. When we share our gifts, we become closer to Jesus and to His Body today, the Church. Giving with gratitude in the example of Jesus Himself leads to a deep, authentic joy.

I invite you to seek that joy through your participation in the 2021 Parish Share Program. By doing so, you support the work of Jesus in our communities.

Through Parish Share, you support vital services that parishes cannot afford alone, such as payroll management for parish employees, assistance with communications, and social ministries. You also make possible a seminary that provides education and formation for men who are discerning the call to the priesthood. You also support the academic education and assist the spiritual formation of future permanent deacons. We can do far more together than we can do alone. And in supporting these ministries of the Church, we find joy in participating in the mission of Jesus.

Each year every parish receives a Parish Share goal. When a parish gathers donations above its goal, the parish keeps the extra funds for its own needs—and this extra income is not assessed in next year's Parish Share.

This year, recognizing a serious decline in parish revenue due to COVID-19 restrictions, I am offering a new rebate program.

Parishes that raise between 80% and less than 90% of their Parish Share goal will receive 1% back. Parishes that raise between 90% and less than 95% of their goal will receive 2.5% back. Parishes that raise between 95% and 100% of their goal will receive 5% of the money back. Parishes will still keep 100% of monies raised in excess of their goal.

It is not easy for your pastor to ask for donations when he knows so many family budgets have been affected over the past year. Yet the ripple effect of the pandemic has made full participation in Parish Share critically important if ministry is to remain strong throughout our diocese, especially in all our parishes. I am so grateful for your support for our clergy, our parishes, and for our Church of Pittsburgh as we set about Finding Joy in Giving through Parish Share 2021.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

February 2020