



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Jn 8:12

April 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers -- Greetings in the Name of the Risen Lord, the Light of the World,

This is a very special year for our Diocese as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our establishment, and the faithful ministry of teaching the faith and sharing the Good News of Jesus, the "Light of the World". The theme of this year's **Bishop's Annual Appeal** is "*Shining Christ's Light: Together as One Family in Faith*". I am grateful for the opportunity to explain just a few of the various ways our Diocese is trying to live that theme of being the Light of Christ for all, through the various ministries, services and programs made possible by your generous support of this annual appeal.

During the unprecedented times of navigating through this worldwide pandemic, our efforts of spreading the Good News of our faith has continued to take place in the midst of the unique situations we have all encountered. For example, we have continued to provide solid formational and educational programs for the young men who are answering God's call to study for the Priesthood for our Diocese. In a special way, I was thrilled to ordain Father David Pinto as our newest priest this past December. The Bishop's Annual Appeal provides for the educational and formational expenses (approximately \$55,000 a year for each seminarian) so they can be well-prepared to be good and faithful priests for our Diocese.

Our diocesan ministry offices have adapted amazingly well in providing innovative and helpful programs to assist our Parishes and our faithful people throughout the pandemic. We have developed inspirational and educational programs that allow for digital and remote learning. These resources are offered to help the Faithful continue to grow in your relationship with Jesus and each other as *One Family in Faith*. We have developed an online Religious Education program, "*The Way/En El Camino*", held virtual retreats and group gatherings, and held technology webinars for our Parishes. Our 21 Catholic Schools have been outstanding in never missing a beat providing in-person teaching this school year as well as virtual and remote learning for all our students.

Our diocesan Catholic Charities, along with the Catholic Community Center (Benton Harbor), have tirelessly and creatively met the social, material and spiritual needs of all God's people, especially those in most need.

My dear Family of Faith, these important programs, ministries and resources are just a few examples of how your generous gifts to the **Bishop's Annual Appeal** makes it possible to **Shine the Light of Christ** throughout our Diocese, and beyond.

Assuring you of my prayers for you and your families, and asking for your prayers for me and our Diocese as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary Year, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo