My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During these extraordinary days as we continue to deal with the uncertainties caused by this worldwide pandemic, I wanted to assure you of our financial support and assistance for our Parishes. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure the financial stability of our Parishes so our Priests, Deacons and all Parish workers will be ready to resume all the sacramental and pastoral activities at such a time as we are all able to do so.

In light of these circumstances, as I officially announced in my letter to you on April 3, 2020, the diocese is delaying the launch of this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal and turning our focus to securing financial support for our Parishes. To that end we are pleased to announce the launch of an online giving initiative, “Forward in Faith: The Parish Support Fund.” This special fund has been created to invite people to use online giving to help offset the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the expected decrease in normal offertory participation as we observe the suspension of the public celebration of the Holy Mass through April 30, 2020.

This fund, which has been created in collaboration with Our Sunday Visitor, our current online giving partner, will become active today, April 9, 2020. Parishioners, as well as any interested donor, will be able to visit our diocesan website (www.diokzoo.org/parish-fund) and make a contribution to a specific Parish. Donations to the fund will be deposited to a Diocesan account and then directly distributed to the donor’s specified Parish.

The “Forward in Faith: Parish Support Fund” has been established to give an immediate, easy and accessible way for people to donate and will include all of our 59 Parishes. This additional giving option is not meant to replace any online giving capabilities you currently employ; and parishioners should continue to use those as they do now to meet their normal offertory obligations.

We will be promoting the “Forward in Faith: the Parish Support Fund” to a broader audience of donors through social media marketing. You are encouraged to share those efforts on your own social media channels if you so desire.

Let us continue to hold each other in prayer during this challenging days.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo