

HEARTS ON FIRE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each day is a new beginning, a precious gift from God. Each new day is yet another opportunity **to love God and to love our neighbor.**

These familiar words may be easy to say, and I acknowledge that they are difficult to live out. I also appreciate that we may feel like we are on an overload of "new" these days, including our life in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. We have a developing diocesan pastoral plan. Most of us have a new pastor. We may even be getting used to a new Mass schedule. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has created countless new processes and situations to deal with, to say nothing about the new concerns and fears we have for our loved ones and ourselves. Sometimes I just want to say, "Stop the bus! I want to get off!"

Then, the sun rises on a new day and I am reminded of Jesus' words in Luke, **"I have come to set the world on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing"**. He wants us all to be part of the refining fire, even when our Catholic faith puts us further at odds with the prevailing public culture. **Jesus wants our hearts to be on fire for His mission** no matter what our life's vocation. By our Baptism, He has anointed us to create strong and vibrant communities of love through the witness of our faith in action. Jesus wants us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, even the very breath in our lungs.

One more new thing is the name of our diocesan appeal. **What used to be the Fruitful Harvest Appeal is now the Catholic Ministries Appeal.** The reason for the change is:

- to focus on the many ministries that are supported through this appeal
- to increase the transparency of how the funds raised from this appeal support the works of Christ directly through the diocese, as well as through the ministries that support each of our local parishes

Inside this letter you will find lists of these Diocesan Supported Ministries and Ministries to Parishes, as well as concrete examples of how each of your gifts, from the small to the large, matter to the people within the 24 counties in North Central Indiana that make up the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. In the December 22 issue of *The Catholic Moment*, we published a listing of the expenditures supported by the diocesan appeal, and we plan to continue this practice of transparency. This appeal will run through the end of 2021, at which time the Catholic Ministry Appeal will become an annual appeal.

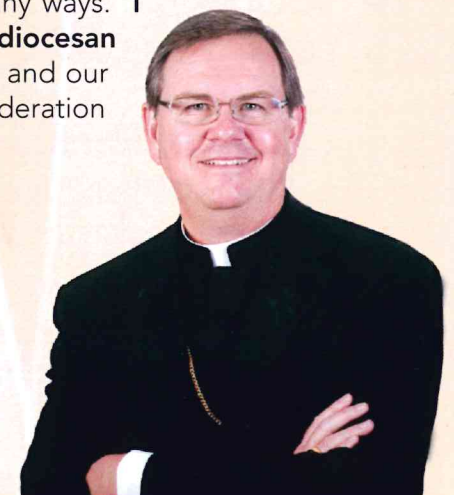
Our local Church is doing the works of Christ in many ways. **I humbly ask for your continued support of these diocesan efforts** as we support the needs of both the people and our parishes. With gratitude for your thoughtful consideration and with hope for a generous response, I remain.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Timothy L. Doherty

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana



"I have
come to set
the world
on fire"

Luke 12:49