Dear Friends in Christ,

God, Prayer, Service: three powerful words important to us as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

GOD   As people of faith, we believe in God. We believe in God's presence and action in our lives each and every day. We know the lifegiving power that springs from God's eternal and everlasting love for us. Even in the most challenging of days we feel God's presence, surrounding us with love and care, with protection and peace. Daily we find opportunities to joyfully share God's love and our own love with those we meet. In the events of our lives and the quiet of our souls, people of faith treasure our ever-present God.

PRAYER   The primordial expression of our faith is prayer. People of faith are people who pray. Prayer is conversation with God, the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God. In prayer we give praise to God, we contritely ask for God's forgiveness, we petition God for his loving intervention and help in our human troubles. We pray in thanksgiving offering our gratitude for all we have that has come from our heavenly Father through his son Jesus Christ.

SERVICE   In many wonderful ways the Church and the world know of your service: through the charitable works of your hands, through your own spiritual journey which you share with others, through serving in a special ministry or through the financial support you give to your parish and diocesan ministries. To each of you I offer my deepest gratitude. Over the past year, I have recognized more than ever, how beautifully deep and strong the faith and service of the faithful in the Diocese of Crookston has been and continues to be.

God, Prayer, Service. Three powerful words important to us as we seek to do God's will here. I thank you for your faith, your prayer, and your service and I ask your support of our 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Sincerely in our Lord Jesus,

Most Rev. Michael J. Hoeppner
Bishop of Crookston