

May 2023

## Peter spoke: “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.” JOHN 6:68

Blessed Eastertide! The new life of Spring reminds of us of Jesus’ rebirth through His resurrection serving as a symbol of love, hope and forgiveness.

Despite the current challenges of the Diocese as we reorganize to define the resources available to ensure that all Victim/Survivors with pending CVA litigation will receive some compensation, there is abundant and glorious evidence of the joy and life of our Catholic faith seen through the ministries and sacraments being celebrated within our Diocesan family of 126 parishes. **While operations are changing, the priority remains for the Diocese to continue to serve your parish as your parish continues to serve you.**

I pray we can unite not only in our work to be the Church Jesus wants us to be, but in our greater call by God to discipleship sharing the Good News! The impact of the decline of societal priority in faith and family values is taking a toll and the answer can be found through our loving Lord and Savior. We need the courage and strength to renew our Church and be united as His disciples as we help to restore the world around us. Toward that goal, we are now offering the opportunity to apportion your Diocesan Appeal investment within 4 areas of focus:

1. **General Budget Underwriting of Diocesan Services** - includes mission & operational support and vocations.
2. **Parish Mission Support Departments of the Diocese** - Within each individual parish is where we know the Catholic Church and the propensity for the fulfillment of our mission comes to life! Mission support of your parish happens via these Diocesan Departments: Catechist Formation, Evangelization, Faith Formation & Education, Marriage & Family Life, Pastoral Care, Prayer & Worship, Respect Life, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Catholic Charities.
3. **Parish Operational Support Departments of the Diocese** - Our priority is to lift up your parish leader(s) and their staff to enable their focus on ministry to the faithful. Operations support for your parish happens via these Diocesan Departments: Canonical Services (ex. marital nullity), Accounting & Finance, Human Resources & Safe Environment, Building Management Services, Information Technology, Stewardship.
4. **Vocations** – underwriting the education of 24 men in formation for the priesthood.

*As we close out our Diocesan Appeal on June 30, 2023, please help us with the resources needed in this mission by supporting both your parish offertory & the Diocesan Appeal.* I can confirm that all funds raised for the Diocesan Appeal are used for programs, services and ministries for parishes and not for the settlement of legal cases.

**May God bless you for accompanying us on this important journey!**

Yours in Christ,

*+Edward B. Scharfenberger*

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger



**Diocesan  
Appeal**

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