

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time for the church in Austin, as *Encountering Christ* unites our parishes and draws us all together to make the diocese a better place for future generations — just as generations before us have done.

God calls us into communion with each other, and this campaign is a wonderful opportunity for us to be one. For me, *Encountering Christ* is as much spiritual as practical. Of course, we need the practical components the campaign supports. But more importantly, the unity this initiative creates with Bishop Vásquez advances the mission we are each given at Baptism, to go out and make disciples.

At times, we easily fall into our “silos,” where each parish is independent of the other. Our rural parishes, in particular, may feel this isolation. But *Encountering Christ* is an opportunity for our entire diocese to come together for a common purpose and realize we are one church, one Body of Christ, with one mission.

May God bless our generosity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. James A. Misko".

Rev. James Misko, Pastor  
St. Louis King of France Parish, Austin  
Chair, Pastor Advisory Committee