



RENEW FAITH • BUILD COMMUNION • INSPIRE HOPE

April 2019

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” ~1Peter 4:10

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord! During this Easter Season, as we celebrate the greatest mystery of our faith, the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded of the reason for our hope and the cause of our joy.

We, the followers of Jesus and faithful members of His Church, *are called* to carry on Jesus’ saving mission in the ways that we live our faith and put our faith into practice each and every day. As Jesus gave Himself so generously for our salvation, we too are called to give of our gifts, talents and resources to help His Church move forward in hope, and as St. Peter wrote, to be “good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

In that spirit, I humbly ask for your support of the *Bishop’s Annual Appeal*, the major fundraising effort which provides the ministries, services and pastoral programs for our people throughout the Diocese. The theme for this year’s campaign is “*We are called...*”, which emphasizes the fact that each of us is invited to give of our gifts, talents and resources in the same spirit of generous giving that God has given to us in His Son, and our Lord, Jesus. *We are called* to live as Jesus has shown and taught us; *we are called* to use our God-given gifts to care for one another; *we are called*, to live lives of holiness. The work of the Church in the Diocese helps to realize the diocesan priorities of 1) *Fostering Priestly Vocations* by supporting seminarians’ education/formation; 2) *Accompanying Families toward Holiness* through programs to strengthen marriages and family life; and 3) *Activating Missionary Disciples*, in particular through the newly-established Institute for Missionary Discipleship (www.imdisciple.com) which offers online catechetical and faith formation courses, as well as workshops, seminars and retreats throughout the year. Hopefully, you have also been receiving our diocesan magazine, *Southwest Michigan Catholic*, a new publication which, through interesting features and stories, is designed to inspire and evangelize. These important programs are just a few examples of what your generous gift to the *Bishop’s Annual Appeal* helps to provide.

My dear Family of Faith, your participation in the *Bishop’s Annual Appeal* affirms our *calling* to be generous stewards of the Church’s mission and enables the good work of the Church to continue in our Diocese. Thank you in advance for your response to this particular way that *we are called* to respond to the Lord with grateful hearts.

Assuring you of my prayers for you and your families, and asking for your prayers for me and our Diocese, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Paul J. Bradley

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo