March 2, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the past year, it’s been clear that God is doing something new in the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter. Though rapid growth marked each of the first six years of our nascent diocese, the last 12 months have shown remarkable signs of the abundant life God intends for our faithful and clergy.

Through the support of donors like you, in 2018 we could embark on:

- **Rapid development of Ordinariate communities.** In Southern California, Holy Martyrs of England and Wales — a mission of Blessed John Henry Newman Ordinariate Community — began offering Masses to standing-room-only crowds starting Pentecost Sunday, when nearly two dozen faithful were received into full communion. Saint Alban Catholic Community in New York has doubled the number attending Sunday Mass since October, while Saint Margaret of Scotland in Texas has grown sixfold since the community’s establishment three years ago.

- **Ample formation opportunities and ordinations.** Since last year, 10 priests have been ordained for the Ordinariate and two new seminarians have started priestly formation, bringing our total number of seminarians to seven. In 2018, our vocations program launched quarterly “formation in ministry” retreats for our seminarians. This past October, ordained clergy traveled to Houston for a week of instruction, prayer and fellowship — a pivotal period of annual enrichment for your priests and deacons, who are scattered across 7,652,000 square miles of our diocese.

- **Greater administrative support from the Chancery.** Our diocesan team has amped up its counsel to your priests and deacons on a breadth of matters, including our liturgy, sacramental guidelines, and best financial and personnel practices. I continue to fly to your communities an average of three times a month to support you and your clergy in your work of evangelization, catechesis, and social outreach.

We have come far, but we are not done! Providing these basic building blocks for the Ordinariate comes at a cost. This Lent, I ask you to join me in making a sacrificial commitment to the Bishop’s Appeal. The Ordinariate’s success — both now and for generations to come — is directly linked to your charitable action towards this annual campaign.

The theme for this year’s Bishop’s Appeal is taken from Isaiah: “See, I am doing something new!” I have experienced how God is doing something new in the Ordinariate, from our new vocations to a new liveliness in the maturation of our communities. Thank you for helping build up this new diocese, all for the salvation of souls and the glory of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes
Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

P.S. You may use the enclosed envelope and pledge card to donate to the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal, or save time and a stamp by giving online at ordinariate.net/bishops-appeal.