



## THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

*"They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings;  
They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*

April 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we continue this "Year of Priestly Spiritual Renewal and Prayer for Vocations", and undertake our first-ever Diocesan Synod on Priestly Life and Ministry, I hope we also will pray for the grace to discover those places in our own faith life most in need of some renewal. As members of the Body of Christ through the gift of our baptism, we are all called to transform the world by caring for our neighbors and communities, thereby being what Pope Francis calls "agents of evangelization". One tangible way we can achieve this in our nine-county community of the Diocese of Kalamazoo is through our participation in the *Bishop's Annual Appeal*. Our shared mission is reflected in this year's theme: "*Renewing Our Mission: Growing in Faith, Increasing our Hope, Serving in Charity*". I am extremely grateful for your gift, which supports our diocesan ministries and programs in our efforts: 1) to help renew the faithful through a variety of catechetical and spiritual enrichment programs; 2) to assist the faithful to be "beacons of hope" and "joyful disciples" in our world; and 3) to serve those sisters and brothers in Christ in need through works of mercy and acts of charity.

Our Catholic faith calls us to ongoing renewal, not only by regularly participating in the practice of our faith and the reception of the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, but also by living out our Baptismal commitment. Your generous support of the *Bishop's Annual Appeal* furthers your own faith practice by helping our faith to be put into practice through the many programs, retreats and faith formation programs provided by the diocese. Whether it's the more than 150 teens renewing their devotion to Christ in Eucharistic Adoration at "The Presence" retreat, the engaged couples deepening their knowledge of sacramental marriage through a Joy-Filled Marriage weekend encounter, or the preparation of our future priests through a quality seminary education, your generous gift helps make possible the renewal of faith and the growth of the Church's mission.

It is my hope that our good works, combined with the spiritual renewal of our priests and the growth in faith of all of us, will lead to more people being brought into the Church, a return to the practice of the faith of those who have "fallen away", and a greater and more fervent love of Jesus being experienced in each of our nine counties of southwest Michigan, and throughout the world. This focus on renewal will reawaken our Diocese and lead to full pews at our churches, vibrant youth engagement, growing enrollment in our Catholic schools, increased seminarian classes, and a Gospel witness of service and charity throughout our nine counties.

With deep gratitude for your support of our diocesan *Bishop's Annual Appeal*, and assuring you of my prayers that the Holy Spirit will renew, inspire and fortify you, your families and our entire diocese, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Paul J. Bradley*

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo