



Office of the Bishop Diocese of Toledo

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January 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

All good greetings in the Lord! In releasing our 2022 annual financial report, I trust it is evident that we continue to commit our ongoing efforts to responsible stewardship in the Service of the Gospel. We remain diligent in managing our expenses and ensuring an environment of sound financial practices. Our broader focus continues to be on the long-term pastoral, spiritual, and financial health of our diocese, as guided by our collective mission and the priorities of our diocesan strategic plan.

The diocesan strategic plan was introduced in 2019 and is comprised of six key areas of focus we refer to as Pillars. Over the past three years there has been much progress made by the various Pillar Teams (staff and volunteers) coordinating this work. This past year we convened a strategic planning team to conduct a 'refresh' of our plan, since it was introduced over three years ago. The outcome of this work resulted in refining some of the existing key goals and initiatives, as well as adding some additional key goals and initiatives as we move forward over the next 2-3 years. Some of the other strategic plan accomplishments for the past year are outlined below:

- *Completed the first year of Intentional Planning to begin the process of adjusting parish structures to correspond to current demographics, projected priest numbers, and position parishes to carry out the new evangelization.*
- *Offered a priestly vocations recruitment training program to all Catholic School Principles and Parish Religious Education Staff to equip them to nurture and identify the next generation of priests for the diocese.*
- *Launched ACTS XXIX within the diocese and conducted introductory sessions with senior staff, all diocesan clergy, and various pastoral center and parish/school staffs.*
- *Hired a Minister to Priests, to promote the holistic health and wellbeing of our clergy throughout the diocese.*
- *Continue to populate the diocesan best-practice knowledgebase for Parish Staff, Domestic Church, Catechesis, Catechists, Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry.*
- *Established the first Young Catholic Professionals Chapter in Toledo with a founding team made up of an impressive group of dynamic and faith filled young men and women of our diocese.*
- *Introduced Franciscan at Home (FHI) as the new education, training, and development platform for all diocesan employees.*
- *Published curricula for learning tracks on the diocesan FHI platform for new teacher-*

ministers, new principal-ministers, and new catechists.

- *Piloted and adopted a new assessment tool for religious knowledge, allowing Catholic schools to better evaluate learning gaps in religious education as well as providing teacher-ministers with suggested professional development.*
- *Created the first scholarship granting organization in the Diocese as permitted by the State of Ohio and crafted a plan for engaging donors for scholarship donation in exchange for tax credits beginning calendar year 2023.*
- *Exploring ways to provide a counseling referral resource program to Parishes throughout the Diocese.*
- *Raised over \$3.25M or 108% of the diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal goal and increased the participation rate, number of parishes exceeding goal, average gift size, and number of major donors.*
- *Initiated the first diocesan-wide capital campaign in more than 20 years, the Living Christ campaign, in October 2021 and as of January 27, 2023, raised \$57M or 88% of the overall \$65M campaign goal. The final fundraising wave of 43 parishes will be completed by June 2023.*

Due to the dedicated work of our committed staff and volunteers, and the generosity of our faithful throughout the diocese, the financial budget of the diocese has consistently improved over the past five years. I am excited to share that for the first time in many years, the diocese has achieved a surplus budget in fiscal year 2023.

Along with the financial and operational matters noted above, it is important also to mention a few of the many ministry and pastoral highlights of the past year, including:

- *12 seminarians studying for the priesthood.*
- *One of our seminarians was ordained to the priesthood in June 2022.*
- *14 men are currently in the Deacon Formation program.*
- *More than 69,108 men, women, and children were assisted by Catholic Charities throughout our 19 counties with meals, shelter, assistance, clothing and support.*
- *Helping Hands of St. Louis saw increases in meals served by 48%, grocery bags distributed by 51%, people served in the pantry by 68%, and people served in the clothing center by 197%.*
- *100,736 meals were served at La Posada Family Emergency Shelter, Miriam House, and Helping Hands of St. Louis.*
- *Over 475 priests, deacons, religious and lay parish staff and leaders attended the 2022 Diocesan Pastoral Conference led by Fr. John Riccardo and the ACTS XXIX Team.*
- *Culture Project missionaries conducted more than 4,000 encounters with students and teachers/parents to proclaim the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity.*
- *Over 200 frontline parish staff attended Entertaining Angels Hospitality Training which provides "first contact" staff and volunteers the preparation for receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ.*

- *236 couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60-plus years of marriage at the Mass for the Anniversaries of Marriage.*

There are many other signs of Gospel engagement occurring throughout our diocese as a result of the good and selfless work of our dedicated priests, deacons, consecrated religious, countless lay faithful and pastoral center staff.

Accompanying this letter is a summary report from our Chief Operations and Finance Officer together with our Controller; a letter from the Chair of our Diocesan Finance Council; and three independent audit reports: "The Diocese of Toledo Combined Financial Report," "The Deposit & Loan Trust Financial Report" and "The Catholic Investment Trust Financial Report." Please take time to review these reports to gain a better appreciation for the progress being made, along with the financial results for the period being reported.

Through intentional prayer, careful stewardship, transparency, and the good work of so many, we continually improve our health pastorally, operationally, and financially. All these are important aspects of moving closer to achieve our collective vision of becoming a more faith-filled, united and vibrant Diocese of Toledo, fostering Holy Disciples, Holy Families, and Holy Vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel E. Thomas".

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas

Bishop of Toledo