



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo

+

January 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

All good greetings in the Lord! In releasing our 2023 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 continues to be an important guide and is comprised of six key areas of focus we refer to as Pillars. Over the past few years there has been much progress made by the various Pillar Teams (staff and volunteers) to complete planned actions and initiatives. It is also worth noting that many of the strategic plan initiatives became foundational case elements for our diocesan-wide Living Christ capital campaign, which is now in the all-important pledge redemption phase. Some of the strategic plan accomplishments for the past year are outlined below:

- *Completed the second year of Parish Intentional Planning, coordinating one new tri-parish grouping and continuing to assist parishes in their strategic planning to engage best practices and, to adjust parish structures to correspond with current demographics and projected priest numbers, to best position them to carry out the new evangelization.*
- *Expanded our engagement of ACTS XXIX and introduced the Rescue Project throughout our diocese with senior staff, all diocesan clergy, and various pastoral center and parish/school staffs.*
- *Newly created Minister to Priests role is staffed and the inherent duties to promote the holistic health and wellbeing of our clergy throughout the diocese are well underway.*
- *Continue to populate the diocesan best-practice knowledgebase for Parish Staff, Domestic Church, Catechesis, Catechists, Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry.*
- *The newly established Young Catholic Professionals Chapter continues to blossom in our diocese, with a founding team made up of an impressive group of dynamic and faith filled young men and women along with a growing list of members.*
- *Hired a Learning and Development Manager, to assist with expanding the curriculum and use of the new education, training, and development platform, Franciscan at Home (FHI), for the benefit of all diocesan employees.*
- *Aligned with other Ohio dioceses and the Catholic Conference of Ohio to promote and successfully lobby for passage of universal school choice.*

- *Began accepting donations to the newly created diocesan scholarship granting organization in exchange for tax credits beginning calendar year 2023.*
- *Continue to develop plans to provide a counseling referral resource program to Parishes throughout the Diocese.*
- *Blessed by the generosity of so many, we completed the active phase of our \$65 million diocesan-wide Living Christ capital campaign by raising more than 145% of goal, or \$105 million. The multi-year pledge redemption phase is now underway, with more than \$40 million in payments having been collected through January 2024.*

Due to the dedicated work of our committed staff and volunteers, and the generosity of our faithful throughout the diocese, the financial state 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, and we are projecting to do the same in fiscal year 2024.

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:

- *11 seminarians studying for the priesthood.*
- *Two of our seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate in June 2023 and, please God, will be ordained priests in June 2024. While three other seminarians will become transitional deacons in May 2024.*
- *13 men are currently in the Permanent Deacon Formation program.*
- *More than 73,850 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 41%, grocery bags distributed by 49%, people served in the pantry by 68%, and people served in the clothing center by 57%.*
- *124,956 meals were served at La Posada Family Emergency Shelter, Miriam House, and Helping Hands of St. Louis.*
- *Over 400 priests, deacons, religious and lay parish staff and leaders attended the 2023 Diocesan Pastoral Conference led by Fr. Roger Landry, with theme focused on the National Eucharistic Revival.*
- *More than 170 clergy and staff from the Diocese of Toledo and surrounding states attended the "Running Rescue Project Equipping Day", as lead by Fr. John Riccardo and others from the ACTS XXIX team.*
- *Culture Project missionaries initiated approximately 7,000 encounters with students and teachers/parents throughout the diocese to proclaim the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity.*
- *Over 150 clergy and staff attended a diocesan Parish Staff Retreat Day - Ministry and the Restoration of Heart, held at St. Wendelin, Fostoria.*

- *Mentored over 200 new teachers and catechists through the diocesan training and development platform, Franciscan at Home (FHI), focused on our Catholic School Orientation and Catechist Programs.*
- *Engaged in outreach to college students through FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) at Corpus Christi parish (University of Toledo) and St. Thomas More parish (Bowling Green State University) — meeting them in friendship, inviting them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and walking with them as they pursue lives of virtue and excellence.*
- *Lead over 400 educators through Known, Loved, & Served, the annual Diocesan professional development event, with focus on implanting virtues-based programming in Catholic schools.*

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 achieving 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,



Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo