Each year, I join with Bishop Parkes and my brother priests in support of the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. The annual appeal is an opportunity for us to work together with parishes across the Diocese to advance the mission of our Church.

In the book of Jeremiah, we are reminded of the blessings that come from trusting in the Lord: “*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretched out its root to the stream.*” (Jeremiah 17:5-8). This scripture beautifully illustrates the importance of our reliance on God and how, when we place our trust in Him, we become rooted and fruitful, just like a tree planted by the water.

Through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, we are given the chance to plant seeds of hope and support the ministries, programs, and charities that nourish our diocese and the many communities we serve. Gifts to the appeal provide essential services such as outreach programs, and support for the most vulnerable among us, as well as support and direct services to our parish ministries such as faith formation and youth ministry. **I invite you to join me in making a gift to the *Catholic Ministry Appeal* this year** **and give hope to <PROGRAM/MINISTRY IMPACT STATEMENT>.**

**PROGRAM/MINISTRY IMPACT STATEMENTS *(Please choose one)***

* **ministries such as Catholic Charities, who served 202,650 meals and housed or sheltered 5,009 clients.**
* **programs such as the Good Samaritan Project, who in 2024 gathered 313 high school students from 17 parishes and Catholic schools to serve those in need at 12 different service sites in our five counties.**
* **ministries such as the Diaconate Office who invited 20 men and their wives to begin the discernment process for the Diaconate, anticipating a possible ordination in the Fall of 2029.**
* **ministries such as the office of Vocations can continue serving its largest seminarian class since 2019, allowing these men to continue embracing God’s call to serve by expressing God’s saving love within us as we help give shape to the world.**

Let us remember that our trust in the Lord enables us to flourish and share His love. As we respond to His call, let us do so with generous hearts, knowing that through our combined efforts, we can build a brighter future for our Church and community in a way that no one parish can do alone.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission as we courageously live the Gospel.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

<INSERT SIGNATURE>

<PASTOR NAME>, Pastor

<PARISH NAME>