



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo

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January 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Prayerful greetings in the Lord! As we release our 2021 annual financial report, there is much to reflect on over the past year as we continue to commit our ongoing efforts to responsible stewardship in the Service of the Gospel. Despite the financial and operational challenges that have manifested due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID), 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 spiritual and financial health of our diocese, as guided by our collective mission and the priorities of our diocesan strategic plan.

While we continue to progress through the various stages of the lingering Pandemic, as a diocese, we have done our best to manage its related impacts pastorally, operationally, and financially. The diocesan offices (Pastoral Center) have continued to take proactive steps to assist and guide our parishes and schools with their ongoing response to these challenges. This includes providing timely and helpful guidance related to all federal and state sponsored relief programs (i.e. CARES Act, etc.) as well as other related COVID regulations. Many of our diocesan locations received much needed Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans, and over the past year most all of these PPP loans have been fully forgiven.

Our diocesan strategic plan was introduced in 2019 and is comprised of six key areas we refer to as Pillars, which are intended to refine our focus over the next 3-5 years in support of our diocesan vision and mission. Since introducing the strategic plan, there has been much progress made by the various Pillar Teams (staff and volunteers) performing the work, despite the interruption caused by COVID. Some of the accomplishments are outlined below:

- *Established a Minister to Priest position to promote the holistic health and wellbeing of our clergy*
- *Within the Department of Discipleship and Family Life, established an Office of Intentional Planning to assist parishes in planning for the future*
- *Implemented the Reconnect COVID-19 Recovery initiative to assist parishes transition during the pandemic*
- *Conducted 18 focus group sessions across the diocese to assess evangelization*

best practice needs

- *Implemented the FORMED.ORG initiative to strengthen the domestic church of families within our parishes*
- *Introduced Franciscan at Home as the new education, training, and development platform for all diocesan employees*
- *Conducted numerous target market listening sessions to assess possible expansion of social and charitable outreach within the diocese*
- *Reorganized the prior Development Office and formed the Office of Mission Advancement to facilitate a culture of stewardship and support the financial needs of parishes, schools and ministries throughout the diocese*
- *Initiated the first diocesan-wide capital campaign in more than 20 years*

The financial position of the diocese has improved somewhat over the past fiscal year due in part to completing the sale of the final two diocesan-owned affordable housing properties located in the Toledo area. The proceeds received from the sale were used to address several priorities including the support of the Pastoral Center building needs, strategic plan initiatives, and to sure up other important reserves.

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:

- *14 seminarians studying for the priesthood*
- *Two of our seminarians were ordained to the priesthood in June 2021*
- *17 men entered into the Deacon Formation program*
- *More than 61,000 men, women, and children were assisted by Catholic Charities throughout our 19 counties with meals, shelter, assistance, clothing and support*
- *83,968 meals were served at Helping Hands of St. Louis, La Posada Family Emergency Shelter and Miriam House*
- *Over 350 persons attended our 2021 Diocesan Pastoral Conference on Evangelization with the theme, "The Domestic Church: Equipping the parish to strengthen the family"*
- *Approximately 215 pastors and parish staff attended a Diocesan Pastoral Retreat to Reconnect with Christ and one another*
- *Culture Project missionaries engaged in more than 5,800 encounters with students and teachers/parents to proclaim the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity*
- *On-boarded over 630 Diocesan Directors of Religious Education, Principals, and new Teacher-Ministers to the Franciscan at Home Institute training platform*

providing formative content for a variety of ministerial roles in Catholic education

As we continue to progress through these demanding times, there are many other signs of encouragement 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 our Diocesan Finance Council Chairman; 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 some time to review these reports to gain a better appreciation for the changes and 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 continue to address our challenges and improve our health pastorally, operationally, and financially. All these are important aspects of moving forward toward 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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo