



RENEW FAITH • BUILD COMMUNION • INSPIRE HOPE

April 2018

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” – 1 Timothy 1:5

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings during this glorious Easter Season as we celebrate the Good News of the Risen Lord, Our Savior. Each of us as members of the Body of Christ are called to live our baptismal promises and be joyful disciples of Jesus, as St. Paul wrote to Timothy, with a “love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

The theme for the *Bishop’s Annual Appeal*, “*We are called... so faith, hope and charity may flourish,*” places a purposeful emphasis on those three important virtues and also illustrates the goals of all the ministries, services and programs of the Diocese. Your gift to the appeal supports our seminarians’ education and formation so they may be ordained priests. Our **faith** flourishes through participation in the sacramental life of the Church made possible by the ministry of our priests. Throughout the nine counties of our Diocese and within our 59 parish communities, and 26 collaboratives, **hope** is what we offer through the programs and resources to help strengthen marriages and families. And we are anchored in the virtue of **charity**, as we support the life-giving ministries of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo and the Catholic Community Center in Benton Harbor.

My dear Family of Faith, I am always very grateful for your sacrificial generosity. When there is need, your response is great. Our need through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is to help further the mission of the Church and bring the Love of Jesus to all who so desperately yearn for it through faith-formation programs, hope-filled family resources or an offer of a charitable outreach. We take our responsibility seriously to use well the monetary gifts given through the *Bishop’s Annual Appeal* for the ultimate purpose of building God’s Kingdom here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Your participation in The *Bishop’s Annual Appeal* ensures the vitality and growth of the Church in Southwest Michigan. Assuring you of my prayers for you and your family, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Paul J. Bradley*

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo