



Office of the Bishop  
Diocese of Toledo

+

20 December 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

All good greetings in the Lord! As we release the Diocese of Toledo's 2017 annual financial report, this letter comes to share a few highlights and to demonstrate our commitment to being responsible and transparent stewards in all our financial undertakings. It is our intent to ensure that generations of future Catholics will benefit from our stewardship of the funds entrusted to us for the mission of the local church. One of our financial goals since my installation as Bishop has been to reduce the debt of the Diocese. Blessed with realizing favorable investment returns over the past year and working more effectively and efficiently to manage our operations, I am pleased to report that our indebtedness to outside third parties was paid in full during the year ended June 30, 2017. In addition, through the generosity of a benefactor, our primary mission was also boosted by a restricted bequest of over \$4.1 million. This tremendous gift will benefit the Diocese for years to come! Finally, our past history of deficit spending has also been curtailed through cost containment efforts. We remain committed actively to monitor our expenses. In short, we continue to create an environment of sound financial practices.

Together with the significant progress in the stewardship of our financial resources, it is important to highlight some of the pastoral achievements realized in the past year:

- More than 30 parishes are participating in the Amazing Parish program creating grass roots leadership growth in our diocese.
- Our first diocesan pastoral conference "Reflecting the Face of Mercy" reached more than 450 priests, deacons, consecrated religious, pastoral leaders, pastoral associates, directors of religious education, school principals and theology teachers. This conference was followed this past September with an equally successful second annual diocesan pastoral conference "Reclaiming Hearts for Christ" exposing the scourge of pornography.
- Catholic Education continues to be a priority with more than 16,000 preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students receiving a solid educational and spiritual foundation in our Catholic schools, not to mention countless students supported through parish religious education programs.

Letter to the Faithful  
20 December 2017  
Page Two

These are just a few of the many signs of growth and hope within our Diocese. Overall, the financial and evangelical health of the Diocese continues to improve year after year. I invite you take the time to read the attached financial report prepared by the Acting Diocesan Finance Officer and Director of Finance, as well as the independent audit reports of the five primary funds of the Diocese of Toledo. Rest assured that due to our continuing efforts, our stewardship of the funds of the diocese will meet best business practices in order to advance the mission of fostering Holy Disciples, Holy Families and Holy Vocations to become a more Holy Diocese of Toledo.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

+ 

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo