



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo

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25 January 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Prayerful greetings in the Lord! As we release our 2018 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. As you are aware, we formally implemented the restructuring of the diocese on November 1, 2017, and one year later we can look back and see the positive impacts of those actions on reporting, governance, and security of the diocesan assets, along with the efficiency and effectiveness gained through enhancements to our organizational and legal structures. This has led to enhanced oversight, management, and transparency of funding and expenditures supporting ministry/pastoral activities and temporal functions of the diocese. Outcomes have resulted in identifying ministries, programs and processes that are performing fundamentally well, and others requiring increased focus and improvement. We remain diligent in managing our expenses and ensuring an environment of sound financial practices.

With all of these constructive organizational changes, the diocese is now better positioned to focus on looking forward and developing a strategic plan, a process we have begun. Through the strategic plan, we will establish greater clarity in our vision, mission, and values, thus providing for the path ahead in key areas of ministry and operational focus. I look forward to sharing more of our strategic planning work with you in the near future.

Along with the notable progress in our financial and operational practices, it is important also to mention a few of the many ministry and pastoral highlights of the past year, including:

- *Three men were ordained to the priesthood.*
- *26 men are in deacon candidate formation.*
- *91 high school and college aged men attended Andrew Dinners encouraging priestly vocations.*
- *More than 45,000 men, women, and children were assisted by Catholic Charities throughout our 19 counties with meals, shelter, assistance, clothing and support.*
- *Seven parishes joined those who have attended the "Amazing Parish Conference", with over twenty parishes registered for the coming year.*
- *With close to 400 attendees, our 2018 pastoral conference, Unlocking the Shackles of Addiction: Pastoral Care for Persons Affected by Drug and Alcohol Abuse, explored the best pastoral practices to minister to addicts / alcoholics and their families.*

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- *255 couples attended our diocesan Joy-Filled Marriage Engaged Couple Workshop weekends in preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony.*
- *Implemented a new preschool through 12th grade Religion Course of Study for the more than 16,000 students in Catholic schools and 14,000 in parish religious education programs.*

There are many other highlights and encouraging signs occurring throughout our diocese as a result of the good and selfless work of our dedicated priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and lay faithful.

Accompanying this letter is a summary report from our Chief Operations and Finance Officer together with our Director of Finance; a letter from our Finance Council Chairman; and two independent audit reports: “The Diocese of Toledo Combined Financial Report” and “The Deposit & Loan 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, transparency, and the good work of so many, we continue to address our challenges and improve our health pastorally, evangelically, operationally, and financially. All this is an important aspect of our moving closer to achieve our collective vision of becoming a more faith-filled, united and vibrant Diocese of Toledo through fostering Holy Disciples, Holy Families, and Holy Vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo