Dear Friends in Christ,

Prayerful greetings in the Lord! As we release our 2019 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. This financial report reflects the first full-year results of our diocese under the organizational structures as implemented through our restructuring effective November 1, 2017. This restructuring has enabled us to enhance oversight, management, and transparency of funding and expenditures supporting ministry/pastoral activities and temporal functions of the diocese. We remain diligent in managing our expenses and ensuring an environment of sound financial practices.

The restructuring has also provided the basis to take meaningful steps in setting a path forward for the long-term spiritual and financial health of our diocese. This includes the development of our diocesan strategic plan, which I introduced in February 2019. This plan 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. Our Pillar Teams are diligently working the plan, and I look forward to continue sharing with you periodic progress updates of our work.

The financial position of the diocese has improved somewhat over the past fiscal year due to completing the sale of five diocesan-owned affordable housing properties located in the Toledo area. The proceeds received from the sale were used to address several priorities including social ministry needs, debt reduction, and future retirement obligations.

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:

- 20 seminarians studying for the priesthood.
- Four of our seminarians were ordained transitional deacons in preparation for priestly ordination in June 2020.
- 26 men are in deacon candidate formation.
- 90 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.
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- 90,556 meals were served at Helping Hands of St. Louis, La Posada Family Emergency Shelter and Miriam House.
- 5,759 incarcerated men and women benefited from our Jail & Prison ministry. Masses/Communion Services, ALPHA Classes, RCIA Classes, Rosary prayers and worship.
- Over 40 of our parishes have attended the “Amazing Parish Conference”, and supported by our Office for Evangelization, are in different stages of implementing best practices.
- Over 550 persons attended the 2019 Diocesan Pastoral Conference on outreach and evangelizing to welcome Millennials to the Church.
- Over 30 new leaders were trained for Hispanic Ministry.
- Over 750 Catholic educators attended a diocesan-hosted faith formation event “Known, Loved, Served”.

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, countless lay faithful and pastoral center staff.

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,

[Signature]

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo