



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo

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**Letter to the Faithful Following the Four Year Anniversary
of Installation as Bishop of Toledo**

31 October 2018

Dear friends,

Having recently marked the fourth anniversary of Installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo, I write to express my profound gratitude to all of you, the priests, deacons, consecrated religious and countless lay faithful who make up this local church in Northwest Ohio. I want each of you to know how much I appreciate your Catholic fidelity, witness and dedication, and to tell you how much each of you inspires me daily with your commitment to the Lord, to His Church and to our Diocese.

Over the past years I have written similar letters around this time of year to report on the current status of the diocese and our ongoing efforts and progress. We conducted a financial and legal review; evaluated and implemented the reorganization of the pastoral center; and more recently restructured the temporal and pastoral services to better serve the needs of our parishes, schools and institutions. We look forward to the fruit these efforts will produce.

The natural next step to move us forward is something which has been frequently recommended from the time of my arrival. Having engaged the Spitzer Center of Ann Arbor, Michigan to assist us in our work, we are now in a position to begin a strategic planning process. To this end, we recently conducted a survey sent to a number of priests, deacons, religious and laity involved in pastoral leadership, and concurrently identified persons with varied experiences from a broad diocesan demographic to form a strategic planning team. Together with senior staff, we will begin to reflect on the results of the survey and prepare to develop a strategic plan based on the newly formulated vision, mission and values of our diocese; to focus our pastoral and temporal efforts; to establish goals; and to build upon the valuable work already accomplished.

As we continue to strive to announce the good news of Jesus Christ throughout our nineteen counties, never losing sight of the challenges the Catholic Church is presently facing, it is my hope that this strategic planning process will enable us all the more to foster holy families, holy disciples and holy vocations for a healthier and more vibrant diocese.

Please know of my profound gratitude, my ongoing prayers and my enduring love for each of you, even as I depend on your good prayers as we begin this exciting initiative to enable us to more intentionally and passionately serve the Lord and one another throughout our Diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo