



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



September 15, 2019

My dear people of the Diocese of Fort Worth,

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Fort Worth is an opportunity for renewal in our common and diverse life as the People of God in North Texas. It is a time for gratitude for Christ's many blessings, manifest most profoundly through his loving and sacrificial gift of the Eucharist.

The Eucharist unites us more integrally than simply our gathering as a congregation of individuals; the Eucharist offers us communion with each other as through its offering we worship God as He desires to be worshipped. In short, ***The Eucharist Makes Us The Church.***

In gratitude for this gift that both unites us and requires that we share a common humanity, I invite each of you to prayerfully make a commitment to the Annual Diocesan Appeal during Mass next weekend.

Last year, more than three million dollars was donated to support vital ministries throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Thank you for your generosity.

Thanks to you, thirty men discern their vocations to the priesthood with the assurance of your prayers and financial support. Retired and infirm priests receive assistance with their expenses. Candidates for the permanent diaconate are well-formed for lives of service to the Church. Thousands of children in our Catholic schools prepare for lifelong practice of their faith as the future leaders of our Church and society. And, families and students on our college campuses receive formation as disciples of Christ.

Thanks to you, those in our prisons and jails know the love of Christ and those who live in poverty know God's mercy and kindness through the work of Catholic Charities.

We are a diverse Diocese of more than one million Catholics spread over almost 24-thousand square miles, and each of our parishes has unique opportunities and struggles. Many cannot afford to pay for priests, directors of religious education, youth ministers or even to pay their utility bills without outside support. When you support the Annual Diocesan Appeal, you support these rural and needy parishes.

This week, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will sacrificially support the Annual Diocesan Appeal throughout this year. May the compassion offered us by Christ in the Sacrifice of the Mass soften our hearts to assist those most in need of mercy and kindness. May we truly become intentional and aware of our mission and vocation as the Church made so by Christ's selfless gift of the Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD
Bishop of Fort Worth

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