



## DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



September 9, 2018

My dear people of the Church of Fort Worth,

Christ has entrusted each of us as the Church to spread the Good News of Salvation. And that requires that we all live in communion as members of the Church and also that we share a common humanity. Both of these things are really under duress in our contemporary society. And so it is more important than ever that we be able to speak the Truth and to speak it well to a society that really needs to hear it and to embrace it.

In our Catholic schools we are dedicated to integrity of faith entrusted to the Church by Christ and also to the soundness of solid and right reason. Our Catholic education has to be accessible to all and the Annual Diocesan Appeal helps make that possible through operating grants for our schools and tuition assistance for families.

Likewise, we are called to bring the Gospel to a world in duress. The Annual Diocesan Appeal supports ministry in prisons and jails throughout our 28 counties, as well as Catholic Charities and its mission to eradicate poverty. Through job training, outreach, development and a greater understanding of participation in society we are making a difference for immigrants, for refugees, and for those who otherwise would fall through the cracks of society because of the effects of poverty.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal supports faith formation through Campus Ministry and Marriage and Family Life programs. In the last three and a half years we have seen the actual public re-definition of marriage and married life. For couples preparing to live a life consecrated to each other as man and woman, husband and wife, in the integrity of permanence, fidelity and openness to God's gift of children our marriage preparation programs equip them to live this vocation in what has become even more a sign of contradiction in our contemporary time.

Many of our 91 parishes cannot afford to pay for priests, directors of religious education, youth ministers or even to pay their utility bills without outside support. Generous operating grants made possible by your gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal bring the light of Christ to parishioners in our rural and needy parishes.

Our Annual Diocesan Appeal helps us to support our retired and infirm priests, educate our seminarians and provide formation and continuing education for our deacons. The Annual Diocesan Appeal helps to fund and administer the diocese, and govern it well that we can be one and come together in unity as Christ calls us to love our neighbor.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth, I ask every family to support the Annual Diocesan Appeal. *The Eucharist Makes Us the Church* and reminds us that through the power of Christ's love we are called to respond to the needs of others. Let us share in gratitude for the gifts we have and joys of life we experience through the eyes of faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Michael F. Olson*

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

THE CATHOLIC CENTER