

# 2020 Appeal Prayer

Heavenly Father, Lord of all creation, we your children bless and praise your holy name. In all the world your love is reflected and we, your disciples, seek to discover your presence and listen to your voice. As we hear you invite us to love, to serve and to lead in Your name. help us be good stewards of your many gifts. Help us to be hands that reach out to others as You did. Help us to stop and remember we do what we do in Your name. Help us to be authentic disciples, planting seeds of faith wherever we go. May all the world hear Your voice calling all to Love as You Love by the living of our lives. In our response to our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Rockford, grant us grateful hearts and give us the courage to share our many gifts of time, talent and financial treasure with all those who are in need. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

> Written by: Rev. Richard Rosinski, Pastor St. Mary Parish, Byron

## **2020 DIOCESAN APPEAL**

# YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Seminarians

110,000





**550** 



programs at Newman

10,428

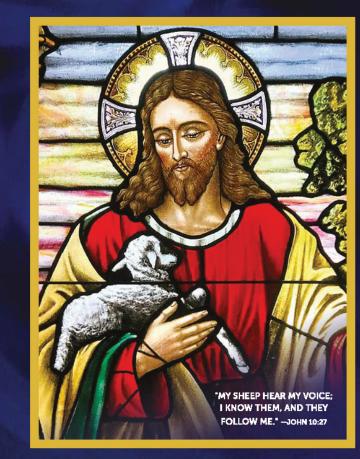


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#### **Our Mission Statement**

We, the People of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, are called by the Father through baptism to be the new People of God. United in faith and relying on the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, we have access to the redeeming love of Jesus, the Christ, and are called to share in his mission to proclaim the Reign of God in Word. Sacrament and Service.



# HEAR **→HIS** VOICE

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MAY 2020 THROUGH MAY 2021



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# How do We Hear His Voice?

Dear Sam, May 2020

"Hear His Voice."

We find ourselves living in extremely challenging times. But as people of faith, we know God is far greater than this recent pandemic. He can bring good out of whatever comes along to challenge us - and He wants us to Hear His Voice especially in these times - with faith, with hope, and with love in our hearts and minds

Perhaps you have learned how important your Catholic faith is to you ... and for you. We trust that you were able to draw strength from the efforts made by our priests, parishes and the diocese to keep everyone safe and still offer prayer-filled support and helpful teaching – sometimes online, by telephone and other times with our hidden prayers.

The Diocese of Rockford provides programs and personnel to help you, as parishioners of the Diocese, to hear and follow Jesus whenever he reaches out to you.

Education is essential in forming our seminarians for ordination to the priesthood. These men have heard Jesus' call and are preparing to bring the love and presence of Jesus to others as priests of our Diocese. The same goes for our deacons. Forty-five years ago the first class of permanent deacons was ordained in our Diocese. The Office of the Permanent Diaconate continues to this day - preparing deacons to teach, baptize, visit the sick, assist at the altar, and otherwise serve the people of their parishes.

Engaged and married couples, youth and families are all served through programs offered by the Life and Family Evangelization (LiFE) Office. The Diocesan Education Office supports and guides our Catholic schools. Its Ministry Formation Program and the Diocesan Theological Institute (DTI) educate, train, and form lay leaders at our parishes. Other diocesan offices support parishes in a variety of ways from payroll to Hispanic Ministry to retreats at Bishop Lane Retreat Center.

The Church always has heard Jesus in the voices of the poor. Catholic Charities serves Christ in our brothers and sisters through a multitude of programs to address their needs for food, clothing, counseling, and emergency assistance.

We all have faced so many challenges these past few months. And now, more than ever, we need the support of each other physically, spiritually, and financially. Will you look, deeply, into your heart, and renew your commitment by joining the Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe (gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999), celebrating individuals whose consistent generosity ensures the success of this critical annual program?

Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family and thank you for your support of the diocesan church.

May God greatly bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Malla

Most Reverend Bishop David J Malloy Bishop of Rockford



#### You Support the People in Need through Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockford has the enviable role of being the Church's face-toface presence in the lives of the region's neediest people. What some may see as obligations or inconveniences, Catholic Charities sees as opportunities to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the afflicted. The challenge is to provide the diverse financial, material and geographical resources to accomplish those objectives.



### You support the Education of Our Youth in the **Catholic Faith**

For our children, the voice of Christ and the message of the Gospel are first heard in our families. Our parish faith formation and religious education programs, Catholic schools, campus ministry and sacramental preparation programs inspire devotion to lead an entire life of faith and service to our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Diocesan Appeal not only sustains our faith formation, education and campus ministry programs, it also supports young adults in their faith journeys, strengthening our local parish and faith communities



# **You Support Your Parish**

Funds donated to the Diocesan Appeal returns to your parish in the form of services and programming that your parish would have a difficult time providing on its own. Funds from the Diocesan Appeal provide the tools and resources to parishes to keep them running smoothly. supporting the work of pastors. pastoral administrators, parochial administrators and parish staff, and supporting vibrant ministries and outreach that serve our parishioners and communities. The Diocesan Appeal nourishes our ministries and helps us to share our faith with others.



#### **You Support** Seminarians, Deacons, and Vocations

Each Sunday, when we gather as a parish for Holy Mass, we experience Jesus Christ in the reading of the scriptures and in the reception of the Eucharist. In the seven deaneries of our Diocese, we have been blessed with men who have chosen to lead a life of ordained service as priests and deacons to our many parishes and faith communities.

Your gift to the Diocesan Appeal not only supports those men actively discerning a vocation to ordained ministry, but also provides professional development and training to pastoral leaders, and funding to promote vocations.

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