

2021
BISHOP'S
SERVICES APPEAL
Supporting the Works of Christ

*“We give thanks to God
always for all of you,
remembering you in our
prayers, unceasingly
calling to mind your work
of faith and labor of love
and endurance in hope....”*

1Thessalonians 1:2-3



Bringing
**Hope &
Healing**

November 1, 2021

«Preferred_Name_Line_1»

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«Preferred_City», «Preferred_State» «Preferred_ZIP»

Dear <Informal Salutation>,

Thank you again for the generosity you have already shown to our diocese's seminarians, priests, families and poor as a donor to the 2021 Bishop's Services Appeal. All of us, clergy and lay, each parish and organization making up the Diocese of Lafayette, have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus and recent storms. We have faced a very difficult episode together and, now more than ever, we must be present for our family, our friends, our communities, and especially those among us who are most vulnerable. I remain humbled and inspired with hope by the love for parish, clergy, and one another that you and so many faithful Catholics have shown.

As Shepherd of the Church for eight civil parishes in southwestern Louisiana, I have worked to respond to the needs of the people of God while managing the fiscal realities brought on by a pandemic. I am heartened by the sacrifice, innovation, and partnership I have witnessed in our parishes and shared diocesan ministries. And I am pleased to share we have added five new seminarians and ordained two new priests, three transitional deacons and eight permanent deacons this year. Additionally, 75% of disaster recovery cases have been addressed.

I am reaching out to ask you to consider a year-end gift to the Diocese of Lafayette to again benefit the 2021 Bishop's Services Appeal. We are very close to our goal, an astounding result in an especially challenging time for so many. With an additional \$467,000 we can reach our BSA goal for the first time in a decade and more fully respond to the needs of our diocese. Please pray over your many blessings and consider an additional gift to Bring Hope and Healing. You can donate using the enclosed card or by donating online at www.diolaf.org/bsa.

God loves us and is with us always, especially in troubled times. His promise of everlasting life is the hope that heals our souls. In my heart, I know that the resolve of our people is strengthened by that promise. I pray we will emerge from our challenges stronger than ever with a deeper connection to the Eucharist.

Asking God's blessings upon you and all those who are suffering among us or mourning the loss of a loved one, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, DD
Bishop of Lafayette

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