



Dear **Informal Name**,

*"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship."
Romans 12:1*

In Romans, Paul calls us to commit ourselves to God, for it is through His mercy that we exist. We are urged, not ordered or required, to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. Being a living sacrifice means that we offer all that we have, all that we are, and all that we hope to be to God, trusting that this will be holy and pleasing to Him. It is in this spirit that we chose as our 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal theme, **"We Are an Offering."**

When Paul tells us that we are to be a "living sacrifice" he is not asking us to die for God, but instead, to live for Him. This may be more difficult, because we are asked to give our entire being, our heart, our love, our talents, our energy, and our strength to serve Him. Daily, we are invited to make the choice to serve God in many ways, some great and some small. And in this, **"We Are an Offering."**

God has given us everything. He gave His only Son, so that we may have abundant life. He gave us His Word, His Spirit, His Church. And He has given us the breath of life, our very being, our gifts and talents. When we realize that our lives are truly a gift from God, it makes sense for us to give back to Him through how we live our lives. We give, not with guilt or a heavy heart but rather with a gracious and cheerful heart, knowing that our offerings will be used for the work of God.

Our 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal, encourages each of us to consider how **"We Are an Offering."** We examine how we give back to God, to our church, to our communities and to our families, honoring God, and the gifts that He has given us. We often go to church looking for answers or for solutions to our problems, asking for burdens to be lifted, and our anxieties dispelled. However, what if we also go prepared to give ourselves, our whole selves, to the work and worship of God?

Informal Name, we want to thank you once again for making a financial offering of **Total Gift** in 2022. It truly made a difference and helped to ensure that the ministries and services of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings flourished. We humbly ask that you prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance as you discern your gift to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal. Please use the enclosed pledge card and envelope to make your offering today. Your financial gift is the most direct and significant way to support our diocesan ministries.

"We Are an Offering" to God by how we choose to act and how we live our lives each day. Please know that we are holding you and your family in our prayers.

Your Servants in Christ,

+Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

+Jeffrey M. Fleming
Coadjutor Bishop of Great Falls-Billings