

An Invitation from Bishop Vetter

The Lord is calling us to a new apostolic mission in the Diocese of Helena.

After many months of careful prayer, planning and consultation, we are embarking on a major campaign initiative. This exciting campaign will raise funds to support key needs in our Diocese and parishes and, at the same time, invite each of us to a closer relationship with Jesus.



We have chosen this well-known verse from 1 John 4:19 — “**Because He First Loved Us ...**” — as the theme of our Campaign for Catholic Life because it is the necessary starting point of our lives.

Because He First Loved Us ... each of us is called to welcome others into a relationship with God that will transform them completely. **Because He First Loved Us ...** we have been given an indescribable gift; we seek to share that love with others.

I am excited about the future of the Catholic faith in Western Montana, because I am excited by the mission and life of our Catholic faith. We cannot achieve this mission without your own conversion and support. **Every heart in this Diocese is being called closer to the Lord:** to be grateful, to be generous, to be more like Jesus in every moment. This is the challenge God gives to us.

I ask for your prayers and support; know of my continued prayers for you.

In Christ, I am,

Most Reverend Austin A. Vetter, *Bishop of Helena*

An Invitation to Love as Stewards

It is He who gives to everyone life and breath and everything. — Acts 17:25

Because He loves us, God has entrusted each of us with unique talents, gifts, and resources. He always gives us more than we deserve; but He does so because He wants us to be stewards, not owners, of what He has entrusted to us. He wants us to use our blessings to bless others—and to lovingly commit ourselves to build His Kingdom here and now.

Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that “to love is to give, to offer what is ‘mine’ to the other.” Quite beautifully, we find our life when we give it away as Jesus did.

Please join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Western Montana as we seek to use God’s blessings God’s way for God’s glory. Join us as we continue the work of building God’s Kingdom of love in our world.

Please consider making a sacrificial gift, payable over a five-year period, and leave a legacy of impact for generations to come.

www.BecauseHeFirstLovedUs.org



BECAUSE
HE FIRST
Loved
US...

A CAMPAIGN
FOR CATHOLIC LIFE



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese of Helena



FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena

FOUNDATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

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Campaign Prayer



**O Lord, my God,
teach my heart this day
where and how to see You,
where and how to find You.**

**You have made me and remade me,
and You have bestowed on me
all the good things I possess,
and still I do not know You.
I have not yet done that
for which I was made.**

**Teach me to seek You,
for I cannot seek You unless You teach me,
or find You unless You show Yourself to me.
Let me seek You in my desire;
let me desire You in my seeking.
Let me find You by loving You;
let me Love You when I find You.**

AMEN

— St. Anselm

Our Moment

We face a pivotal moment in our Diocese's history.

We recognize the changes that our Diocese and parishes have seen during the past few generations. We continually experience the stresses of a culture that is becoming increasingly secular. We know that families are increasingly isolated, fragmented, and polarized.

But we also know there is great hope in Jesus Christ – because through Him, all things are possible.

Jesus' words to His disciples in the Great Commission gave them the simple mission to witness – and proclaim – His Gospel to all ends of the earth.

That mission given to Jesus' first disciples is the same mission for each of us in the Diocese of Helena. ***Because He First Loved Us ... we are called to do the same***, to invite others into a relationship with God that will transform them completely inside and out.

As disciples, our paramount mission must be to help people encounter Jesus Christ personally and intimately, in a genuine living relationship.

After prayerful reflection and thoughtful planning, we have identified several strategic priorities totaling \$30 million which we know will advance the mission of the Church. We are excited to begin a Campaign for Catholic Life in the Diocese of Helena to ensure key investments in our people, parishes, and ministries – all with an eye toward sharing Christ's love.



Priorities

Our Campaign for Catholic Life will prioritize the following:

Strengthen Our Parishes

\$9,000,000

Our local parish is the place where we encounter the depth of God's love, and this is where our efforts will be centered. More than \$9,000,000 is expected to be allocated to parishes for their own needs and dreams.

Grow Priestly Vocations

\$8,000,000

\$8,000,000 will be raised to establish an endowment fund for ongoing seminarian education and priestly formation to ensure, in perpetuity, that no vocation is hindered due to financial need.

Care for Our Retired Priests

\$4,000,000

The campaign will raise \$4,000,000 to provide greater security for the retirement needs of our priests who have served us so well.

Restore Our Diocesan Cathedral

\$1,500,000

\$1,500,000 from the campaign will be used to restore the exterior of our diocesan cathedral and ready it for the next generation of disciples.

Help Others Discover Christ

\$4,500,000

The campaign will provide \$4,500,000 to create an endowment for ongoing support for our shared work of evangelization so that we can more effectively reach out to all of God's people wherever they may be in their faith journey.