

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord!

The theme of the 2023 Catholic Services Appeal is **"Do this in memory of Me."** These words of Jesus, spoken at each celebration of the Eucharist, resonate in the heart of every Catholic. With this invitation, and strengthened by the Eucharist, Jesus invites us to remember Him as we go forth into the world and respond as His disciples to all that we encounter. The annual Appeal gives us an opportunity to do this by living out our archdiocesan mission statement: *to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ*.

Thankfully, the Lord doesn't ask us to do it alone. Instead, He invites us to do our part as we work <u>together</u> as an Archdiocese to provide the ministries and services that no person or parish can provide alone. The Catholic Services Appeal is crucial to advancing this mission of our Church, in our parishes and in our outreach to all of God's children.

What we do together as one family of faith has a powerful impact in the lives of so many people throughout the Archdiocese, including the members of our own parishes. A gift to the Appeal is a wonderful way to share our blessings with others and to show God how thankful we are for all that He has given us.

Last year, through the combined efforts of more than 12,000 families from every parish across the Archdiocese, the Appeal raised over \$4.1 million dollars to support shared ministries, our seminarians, our parishes, and those in need. This was the largest CSA total ever! Your gift last year of <<insert amount>> was an important part of that <u>shared</u> effort. If you are able, I ask that you prayerfully consider a gift of <<insert amount>> or more to the 2023 Catholic Services Appeal.

In addition, I am pleased to share that the number of seminarians in the Archdiocese of Louisville is growing! We are filled with gratitude and joy at this increase, thanks to the Holy Spirit's inspiration and the robust outreach of our Vocation Office. With this larger number also comes a significant increase in expense. The annual cost to attend seminary is on par with private institutions of higher education and graduate degree programs. A typical seminarian spends six years in priestly formation, so you can imagine the financial responsibility of the Archdiocese this fall, and beyond, as we prepare to educate these future priests.

<u>We need your help</u> to support this growing number of seminarians. Two anonymous donors have pledged **\$75,000** to offer a challenge that will **match** gifts made to the Seminarian Education Fund through the Catholic Services Appeal. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our seminarians with **double the impact**!

Donations may be shared securely online at <u>www.ArchLou.org/CSA</u> or by returning the enclosed response form in the envelope provided.

Our blessings and good works are multiplied when we work together. I thank you for your prayers for the success of the Catholic Services Appeal, and I ask for your faithful and generous financial support. At whatever level you discern, your financial gift will be received with my heartfelt gratitude. You and your loved ones are in my prayers daily. I ask for your prayers for me as well.

Know that I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,

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Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre Archbishop of Louisville