



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 6, 2020

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Last week, I wrote to express my appreciation for your sacrifice, dedication, and commitment to serving the needs of our parishes. We have been operating in uncertain and unprecedented times, often making and then changing plans as we receive new information. I realize this has not been easy for any of us, but I want to reiterate my thanks and say that your efforts do not go unnoticed and give us optimism for the future.

Amidst all the chaos that COVID-19 has wrought on our nation and state, our diocese was in the final stage of a very successful Bicentennial Campaign designed to help our parishes and those in need. This effort, which was the largest and most ambitious fundraising campaign we have ever undertaken, has already raised more than \$62 million to date. The funds will help our parishes repair and renovate their facilities, fund new construction, secure monies for future campus improvements, and enhance parish ministries and outreach.

Our hope is to complete the efforts of the final block of parishes that started their campaigns in January 2020 at a future date. These parishes and their volunteers were working extremely hard and effectively until the public health emergency temporarily halted our activities. After conversations with the College of Consultors, we decided to pause Bicentennial Campaign activities and our professional partnership with CCS Fundraising — whose staff have been supporting the parishes, clergy and volunteers the past two years — until we determine if, and when, we can resume and conclude the effort. We realize that many parish communities have exciting plans for their share of the funds, and we hope they can achieve this vision.

Thank you all for your support and for the many hours of work you have put into the campaign. We look forward to a return to normalcy in our lives and pray for everyone impacted by COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Mummert, our director of Stewardship and Mission Advancement, at cmummert@charlestdioocese.org. Her office will be taking on the responsibility of the Bicentennial Campaign.

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston