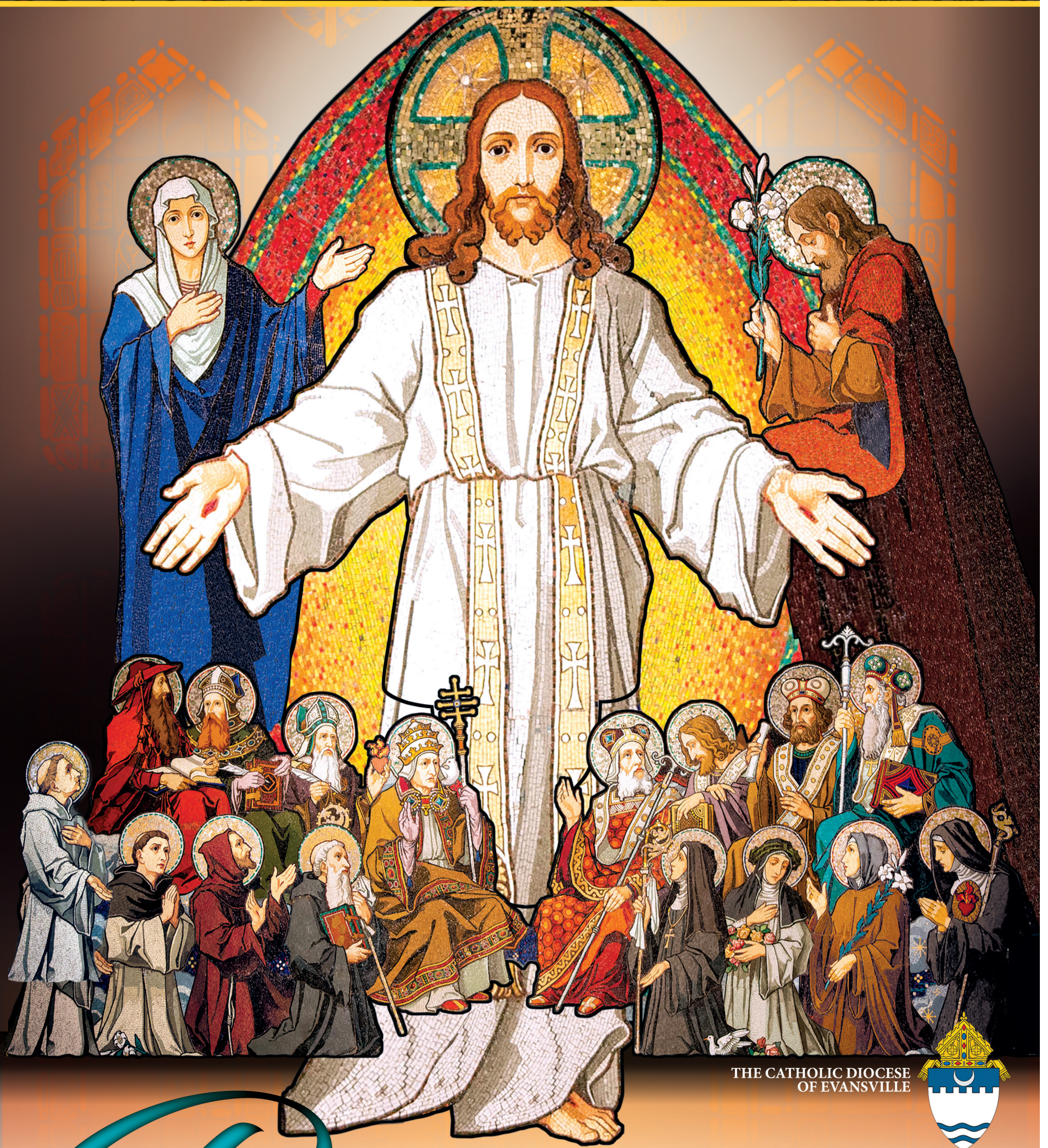


CATHOLIC PARISHES CAMPAIGN | 2020
2021



THE
Resurrection
HOPE IN CHRIST AFTER DARKNESS



Catholic Diocese of Evansville

4200 N. Kentucky Ave. • P.O. Box 4169 • Evansville, IN 47724-0169 • Tel. 812-424-5536 • Fax 812-436-7450 • www.evdio.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am grateful to have an opportunity to write to you about the Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC) and the good work made possible by this annual appeal for the Diocese of Evansville.

The Diocese of Evansville is our local Church, which is made up of 45 parishes across 12 counties in southwest Indiana. We are blessed beyond measure to have such a wonderful community made up of people of many races, ethnicities and backgrounds. This rich diversity is a source of our strength, a strength which has at its foundation the love of Jesus Christ and our unity as His sisters and brothers

Last year when I wrote about the Catholic Parishes Campaign, we were all filled with anticipation of celebrating our 75th anniversary as a diocese. We began that celebration last November with the beautiful celebration of the dedication of St. Benedict Cathedral. Just a few months later, we were sheltering at home and public Masses were suspended due to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic. It appeared that darkness had overtaken the land, and a multitude of unforeseen troubles and problems were suddenly ours.

However, our faith in Jesus united us and His love and grace held us together in spite of the tremendous challenges the virus placed in our path. Our diocesan offices worked closely with parishes to help them navigate these unprecedented circumstances as they continued pastoral ministry and outreach despite the lockdown. We experienced in those difficult days that, without any doubt, Jesus is our light that dispels the darkness. Our words were those of the ancient Te Deum prayer, "In you, Lord, is our hope, and we shall never hope in vain."

The Resurrection — Hope in Christ after Darkness is the theme of our appeal this year. This theme reminds us that the darkness of Jesus' passion and death on the Cross led to the light of the Resurrection, the fulfillment of God's promise to save His people. At our baptism, we received a lighted candle to remind us that as his brothers and sisters, we are filled with His risen light, and with His grace, we can work to dispel the darkness that can seem to surround us.

This is the good work that is done by the many ministries of the diocese as we strive toward accomplishing our mission of bringing the light and hope of Jesus Christ to His people. These ministries — Worship, Catholic Charities, Vocations, Hispanic Ministry, Catechesis, Catholic Schools, Family and Life, Youth and Young Adults, Communications, Tribunal, Stewardship, Finance, and Chancery — strive to serve the many and varied needs of parishioners, staff, and clergy of all our parishes.

Due to the ongoing economic difficulties stemming from the effects of the pandemic, the goal for the Campaign was not raised from last year. As a result, diocesan salaries were frozen and directors were asked to cut their budgets by 10%.

This Catholic Parishes Campaign is the primary means of financial support for the ministries of our diocese. Your financial support is crucial to the success of our mission as a diocesan Church. We are grateful to you for your extraordinarily generous contributions to this appeal in the past, and we are asking you to prayerfully consider contributing to it again this year, if you are able.

Be assured that I remember you and your intentions at Mass each day, and I ask that you remember me in your prayers. Let us ask the intercession of our patroness, Mary the Mother of God, to help us bring the light and hope of Jesus to all people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville





We come from different places and backgrounds. We are different ages, different colors and have different life experiences. But there is one thing we all have in common.

We love the Lord



The **Catholic Parishes Campaign** provides us with the opportunity to share our love of God with others through our gifts of treasure. These gifts build the ministries of the Church, which exist to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. From this relationship with Jesus, we come to a deeper appreciation for that which is God's desire for each and every one of us.

The **Catholic Parishes Campaign** serves all those in the local Church, which is the Diocese of Evansville. Our local Church is:

- 5,010 square miles in size;
- 75,838 registered Catholics out of a total population 512,393;
- 45 parishes;
- 36 active diocesan priests;
- 23 retired diocesan priests;
- 7 priests from religious orders and places outside the diocese;
- 209 religious sisters;
- 60 permanent deacons;
- 10 seminarians
- 2 Catholic hospitals
- 4 Catholic high schools with 1,431 students enrolled;
- 22 Catholic elementary schools with 5,589 students enrolled
- In addition, in the last year there were:**
- 887 baptisms of children;
- 71 adults baptized and 115 received into full communion with the Church;
- 297 marriages;
- 793 funerals.

This relationship with the Lord sustains people in their lives and faith in Jesus, empowering each of us to carry Christ into the world and encounter his people. **We are meant to be the person of Christ for others.**



The **Catholic Parishes Campaign** is the annual diocesan fundraising appeal that benefits parishes, families and individuals across the diocese, to serve our friends and neighbors by being Christ's light in the world.

Our gifts help all of us to **know** the Lord, to **seek** Him, to **love** Him and to **serve** Him.

Seek Him ~ Our gifts to the **Catholic Parishes Campaign** support our **clergy** in their pastoral and sacramental work. The **Office of Vocations** guides the formation of our priests. The offices of **Worship, Tribunal** and the **Chancellor** all uphold our priests in their day-to-day parish ministry.



Love Him ~ Our gifts support **Catholic Charities** as they work to eliminate physical and spiritual poverty in our diocese.



Know Him ~ Our gifts to the Diocese of Evansville's **Catholic Parishes Campaign** assist the diocesan offices of **Catechesis; Youth and Young Adults; and Catholic Schools** to engage our young people and prepare them for lives of love and service to the Lord and His people.



Serve Him ~ Our gifts support the offices of **Communications; Family and Life; Finance; Hispanic Ministries; and Stewardship.**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. — (Lk. 1: 78-79)

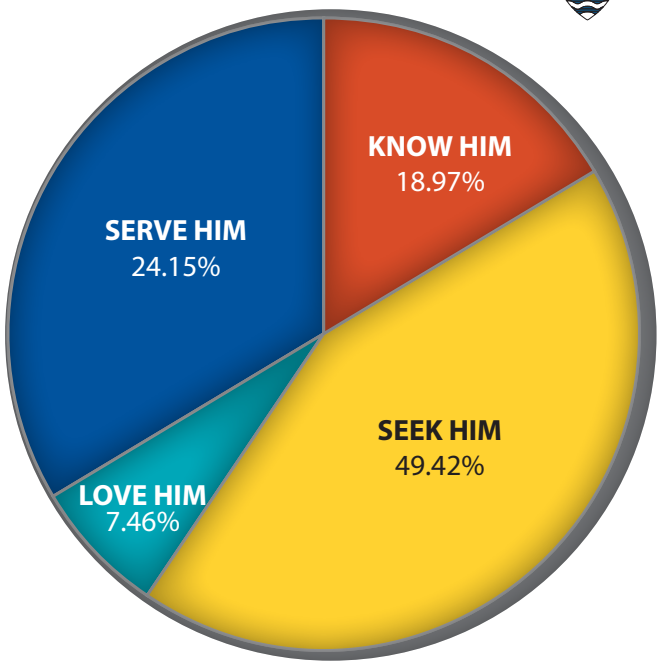
In spite of the great challenges we face, our hope is, and has always been, in the Lord. He overwhelms the darkness and calls on us to be his light: **You are the light of the world (Mt. 5:14cf).**

It is a tremendous responsibility. As people who love the Lord, He has given us all we need to carry out His mission, to **go and make disciples of all the nations (Mt. 28:19cf).**

We do this through sharing with our brothers and sisters in Christ the gifts we have been given, because **your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father (Mt. 5:16).**

Our gifts to the Catholic Parishes Campaign glorify the Lord. He is the dawn, vanquishing the dark, bringing hope to the hopeless.

HOW YOUR GIFT SERVES



Be the light. Dispel the darkness. Glorify the Lord.

Profiles in Faith



Eric and Kristen Girten are members of Holy Rosary Parish in Evansville. Eric is a lifelong Catholic and received the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, Eucharist, and confirmation at Holy Rosary. Kristen converted to the faith 27 years ago, and she and Eric were married at Holy Rosary. They have three children—two are in college and one is a senior at Reitz Memorial High School. All three received sacraments at Holy Rosary.

Kristen is the principal at Good Shepherd Catholic School in Evansville. She has been an educator for 24 years, all of which have been in Catholic schools in our diocese.

Eric is the Director of Family & Life for the Diocese of Evansville.

Kristen's work at Good Shepherd School is fully supported by the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools, which is run by Superintendent Dr. Daryl Hagan and his staff. Kristen makes sure faith formation is an essential part of her students' education and works to that end in partnership with Kathy Gallo, Director of Catechesis for the diocese. Kristen also depends on Catholic Charities to help families in need and schools in crisis.

Eric assists parishes regarding life issues such as abortion and capital punishment in his work at the Catholic Center. He provides resources to parishes for marriage preparation and support, retreats, programs and material to use in everyday parish ministry.



Both Eric's and Kristen's most important work is to help build the Kingdom of God, and their service affects thousands of people every day. The gifts we make to the Catholic Parishes Campaign support their efforts.

All gifts to the **Catholic Parishes Campaign** uphold the mission of the Diocese of Evansville in bringing the message of God's redemptive mercy to people across the diocese. Please join us in that mission by making a gift today. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

For more information about the **Catholic Parishes Campaign** or the ministries supported by your gift, contact your parish office. Or contact Matthew Potter, Director of Stewardship for the Diocese of Evansville, at (812) 424-5536 or mpotter@evdio.org.



Please give generously to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Diocese of Evansville Catholic Center • 4200 N. Kentucky Avenue • Evansville, IN 47711