

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Across the Archdiocese of Baltimore, I continue to witness inspiring signs of renewal and hope. In our parishes, schools, ministries, and communities, the faith of God's people is alive and growing. Families are gathering in prayer, young people are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, and neighbors are serving one another with generosity and compassion. These are powerful reminders that the Church is vibrant, joyful, and filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

This past Easter, more than 2,000 people said yes to Christ and entered the Catholic Church here in our Archdiocese. Through the Rite of Christian Initiation and journeys of conversion, many are discovering the beauty of the Gospel and the welcoming embrace of the Church. Their witness strengthens us all and reminds us that Christ continues to call hearts to Himself. Their "yes" to faith is a sign that the Church's mission is alive and bearing fruit. Faith is being rediscovered in our midst.

We are especially encouraged to see young adults returning to the practice of the faith, with young adult Mass attendance having doubled in many parish communities. We are also seeing a renewed call to serve the Lord and His Church. Today, we have more than 60 seminarians preparing for the priesthood, the largest numbers we have seen in years. These signs of vitality give us confidence and hope for the future.

This spirit of renewal is made possible in countless ways through the 2026 Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries: *Lift Up Your Hearts, United in Hope and Service.* Your support for the Annual Appeal fuels the mission of the Church throughout our Archdiocese and sustains more than 100 ministries that serve God's people each day. It strengthens our parishes by providing nearly $2 million annually for local ministry, helping communities grow in worship, service, and outreach.

The Annual Appeal also fuels direct service through partners such as Catholic Charities, which receives more than $1 million each year to care for those most in need. The Appeal supports Catholic education, advances evangelization across our parishes, and reaches into the everyday lives of our people in ways both seen and unseen.

Every gift to *Lift Up Your Hearts, United in Hope and Service* becomes an instrument of hope, strengthening parish life, enhancing Catholic schools, nourishing charitable outreach, and helping to ensure that the love of Christ reaches every corner of our community. Through your generosity, lives are changed, faith is deepened, and the Church is empowered to continue the saving work of Jesus.

At a time when many seek meaning, belonging, and hope, the Church stands ready to proclaim the enduring message of God's mercy and love. Together, we are building a future marked not by fear, but by faith; not by division, but by unity; not by discouragement, but by hope.

I invite you to prayerfully consider supporting this year's Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries, *Lift Up Your Hearts, United in Hope and Service*. No gift is too small, and every contribution makes a meaningful difference. Together, we can continue to strengthen the Church, serve those in need, and welcome all who are being drawn to faith.

Thank you once more for your faithful witness, your generosity, and your love for the Church. With grateful prayers that God may bless you abundantly, and that Mary, Mother of our Church, may intercede for you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

+William E. Lori

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE
320 CATHEDRAL STREET | BALTIMORE, MD| 1-888-202-5113
WWW.ARCHBALT.ORG