



BISHOP'S APPEAL

February 2, 2024
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Dear Friends in Christ,

For the past two years, the Ordinariate has been involved in a National Eucharistic Revival together with Catholics throughout the United States. This has been a privileged moment to renew our understanding and devotion to the great mystery of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and to be renewed *by Christ*, who is our healing, our strength, and our salvation. Our Lord knows the deepest longings of our souls, for Jesus Christ himself is the Father's loving response to that longing and to the depth of human need. As he says to his disciples in every age: ***I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst*** (John 6:35).

At the heart of the Ordinariate's mission is to proclaim Christ! This we do through lives of faithful discipleship, by striving for holiness in our families and in our personal lives, by active charity for those in need. Most especially, when we gather in our parishes for the celebration of Holy Mass, we not only proclaim Christ, but he is made present! Once again this year, I invite you to support the mission of the Ordinariate, a mission that is thriving in many ways:

- **Eight Ordinariate seminarians** are preparing for ordination to the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary, St. Joseph's Seminary, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome.
- We will ordain **two new priests** in 2024, ensuring that the Lord's gift to us in the Eucharist continues!
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton community in Knoxville, Tennessee, was recognized as our newest community in formation.
- Five of our communities are currently engaged in capital campaigns to buy or develop land for their permanent parish home.
- The Ordinariate unrolled a diocesan health insurance plan for clergy and full-time lay employees, continuing our commitment to ongoing care for those who care so well for our faithful.

I ask you to consider prayerfully supporting this mission with a monetary gift to the 2024 Bishop's Appeal. Your gift, no matter how large or small, contributes to these works and makes more possible. The Bishop's Appeal provides direct support to the Ordinariate, cultivating vocations to the priesthood and religious life, providing crucial administrative support to our nearly 40 parishes and parochial communities, and helping new communities to form. The Ordinariate is certainly stronger because of your generosity! God has indeed blessed us with growth and with vocations. We can better receive that grace by supporting what we have been given.

There are so many people who do not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, who do not receive him as the Bread of Life. There is much to be done, many opportunities to announce our Eucharistic faith and the beauty of Catholic teaching. Thank you for your consideration of a sacrificial commitment to this year's Bishop's Appeal. May you be richly blessed by the God who loved us to the point of taking on our humanity and comes to us still in the humility of bread and wine.

With the promise of prayers, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes
Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

P.S. You may use the enclosed envelope and pledge card to donate to the 2024 Bishop's Appeal or save time and a stamp by **giving online** at ordinariate.net/bishops-appeal.