



January 2023

Dear Parishioner,

Many people spend their whole lives searching for a sense of belonging. As baptized missionary disciples, we need only to look to the Bible to know exactly Who we belong to: “I have called you by name: you are mine” (Is 43:1).

What a comfort — a joy — to know, without doubt, that *we belong to God!*

We cannot keep this joy to ourselves. We must put our joy — our faith — into action and help further God’s Kingdom here on earth. In the Diocese of Joliet, the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) allows us to demonstrate our faith and bring greater assistance to those in need. Together, we invest in our future priests, catechize through Catholic education, promote social justice, and reduce the suffering of those in need.

Because of your generosity to the CMAA, you truly live out the Gospel as well as the theme for this year’s CMAA, *We Belong to God*.

As we launch the 2023 annual appeal, I ask that you prayerfully reflect on the love God has for you, as well as Christ’s Church, by making a gift or pledge this year. And if you are able, please consider increasing your gift this year. You may find inspiration in the stories in the enclosed brochure, which shares how the CMAA impacts your brothers and sisters in Christ. Please return the enclosed pledge card by February 20 or go to jolietdioceseappeal.org to give online.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

Peace,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

