

May 26, 2020

<Primary Addressee>
<Address 1>
<Address 2>
<City>, <State> <Zip>

Dear <Primary Salutation>,

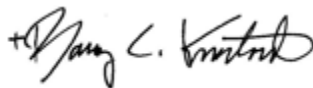
The last few months have been an unprecedented time in our world. Although we have been challenged in the ways we are called to be physically present to one another, it's important to remember that we are still the Body of Christ. I have been heartened by the witness of so many of our pastors and the generosity of their parishioners as they look out for others. The Kingdom of God is not stalled but is breaking forth in our midst when we realize that our faith is lived everywhere, every day and not just within the walls of our worship spaces, but within our homes and hearts as well. Our faith and mission will continue.

In these times, the reality is that the list of those seeking assistance is growing each day and the cost of providing these services is rising each day too. Because of your sacrifice and generosity to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we can bring Christ to those most in need by addressing the larger issues of poverty and homelessness which can only be accomplished by combining our resources. The Appeal also supports vocations, youth and young adult ministries, prison ministry and the formation of lay leaders which are still so critical for us in these challenging days. These are just a few of the ways your generosity makes a difference. My video is not able to be shown in our parishes, but I ask you to look at it on our website (<https://richmondcatholicfoundation.org/giving/annual-appeal/>) to see how your support brings the light of Christ to those most in need.

During these times of social distance, a sense of connection and community is more urgently needed, so I am trying something new. It is something that I pray will help us recapture that link that we used to get from the physical sign of peace at Mass or a handshake greeting in the narthex. I have set aside several days on my calendar and I'm going to use those days to pray for specific families in our Diocese. **I'll be praying specifically for you and your family on <prayer date>.** Please consider submitting a prayer intention by visiting <https://richmonddiocese.org/prayer-intention>. I will keep your intentions close and in confidence, and on <prayer date>, I will offer up my prayers and intercessions for you, your family and your special intentions.

Know of my love, gratitude and prayers for you. May the Risen Christ bring us holy boldness to do what Christians do in the face of challenge; to raise the banner of Christ's victory over the darkness of sin and live in the light of a new day!

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Diocese of Richmond