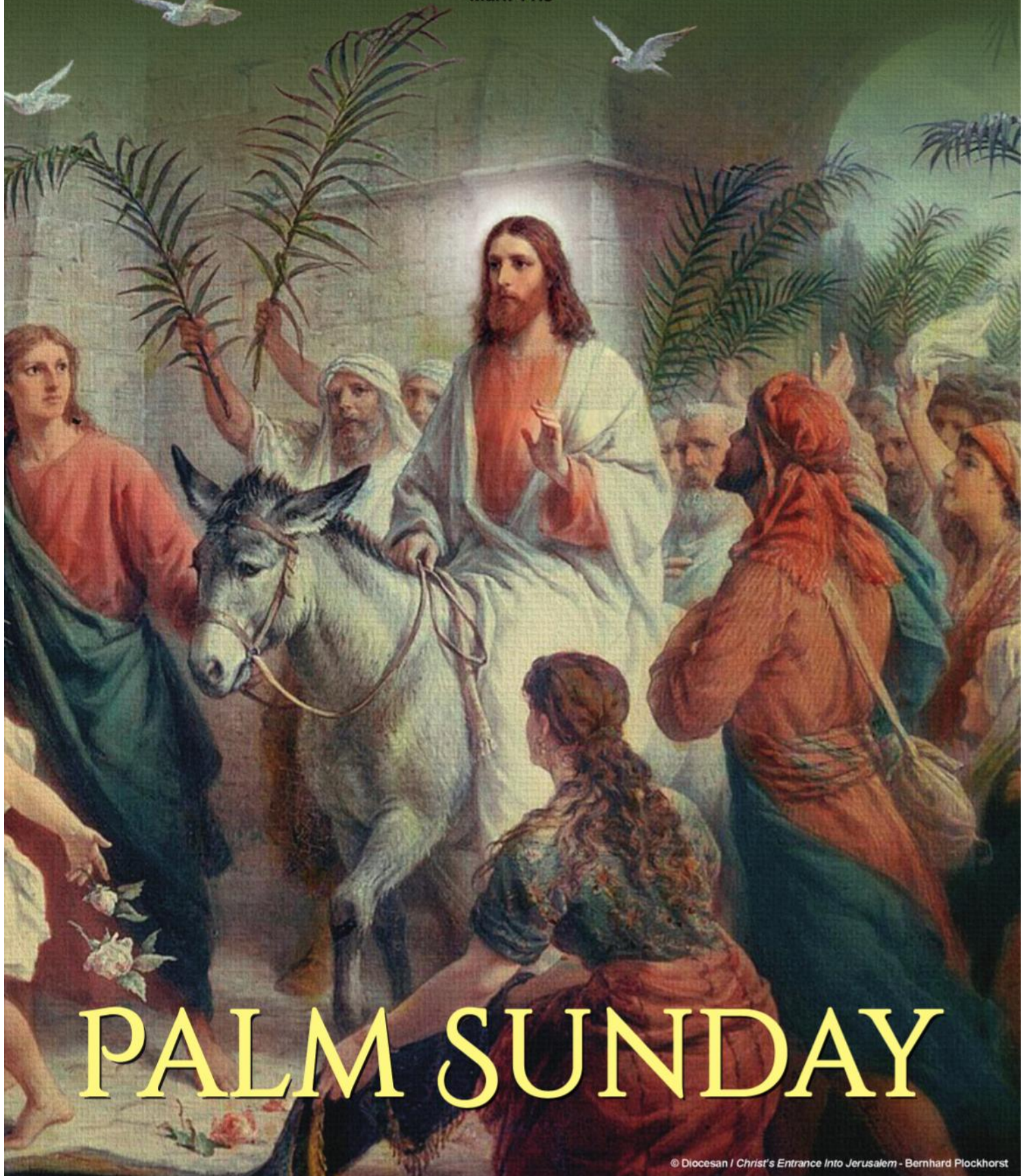


**“Blessed is He who comes in the name  
of the LORD!”**

Mark 11:9



**PALM SUNDAY**

## Liturgy Intentions For The Week

**Monday, March 25**

*Nothing scheduled*

**Tuesday, March 26**

*Nothing scheduled*

**Wednesday, March 27**

*Nothing scheduled*

**Thursday, March 28 – Holy Thursday**

7 p.m. for those addicted

**Friday, March 29 – Good Friday**

12 p.m. for safe travels

**Saturday, March 30**

8 p.m. for newly received Catholics

**Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday**

8 a.m. Geroge & Margaret Fultz

10:30 a.m. St. Caspar parishioners

1 p.m. Angela Simona Galvan



**Saturday, March 30 – 8 p.m.**

Musicians: Sue Dieringer & Chris Harben  
Proclaimer: Sally Kovar & Sue Creps  
Servers: ***Please sign up***  
Comm. Ministers: Teresa Schultz, Barb Bonfert,  
Ushers: Jean LaFountain, Don Davis, Paul Murphy,  
Steve Sekula

**Sunday, March 31 – 8 a.m.**

Musicians: Valerie Adamski & Bert Dieringer  
Proclaimer: ***Please sign up***  
Servers: ***Please sign up***  
Comm. Ministers: Mary Fraker  
Ushers: Mel Case, Larry Restivo, Mel Augustyniak,  
Louis Buckenmeyer, Mike Ott

**Sunday, March 31 – 10:30 a.m.**

Musicians: Spirit Seekers  
Proclaimer: ***Please sign up***  
Servers: ***Please sign up***  
Comm. Minister: Ann Flory  
Ushers: Rich Flory, Jim Miller, Mike Vasquez, Tracy Elson

Fulton Manor/Ayden Healthcare-Roxanne & Tracy Elson  
Church cleaning this week – Rochelle VanLoocke

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



**Sunday, March 24**

*St. Therse Spring Fling* – Parish Life Center

9 a.m.-12 p.m. – *K. of C. Breakfast* – PLC

5 p.m. – *Spanish Rosary* – South Wing

**Tuesday, March 26**

7:15 p.m. – *Pastoral Council Meeting* – PJ

**Wednesday, March 27**

5:30 p.m. – *RCIA* – Pope John Room

7 p.m. – *Men's Group Bible Study* – North Wing

7 p.m. – *Stations of the Cross* – Church

**Thursday, March 28**

7 p.m. – *Holy Thursday Mass* – Church

7 p.m. – *Strength in Numbers* – Basement Hall

**Friday, March 29**

*Parish Office will be Closed*

12 p.m. – *Good Friday Service* – Church

4:30-6:45 p.m. – *Fish Fry* – Parish Life Center

6 p.m. – *Spanish Prayer Group* – Pope John Room

**Saturday, March 30**

8 p.m. – *Easter Vigil* – Church

**Sunday, March 31**

5 p.m. – *Spanish Rosary* – South Wing

### **Office Information**

Church Phone: 419-337-2322

Fr. Todd's Phone: 419-335-3656

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
1:30-4:30 p.m.

Church Website: [www.stcaspar.org](http://www.stcaspar.org)

## **Last Week's Collection**

Average weekly collection needed	\$6,975.00
Collection for March 17	\$5,543.00
88 Sunday envelopes	\$3,340.00
Loose cash	1,174.00
Electronic giving for wk.	1,029.00

**Easter “Word Among Us” and Little White Books Have Arrived.** You can pick them up on the tables in the back of the Church.

### Help Me Be The Best I Can Be

Thanks, Lord, for the gift of another day. Let me not worry unduly about tomorrow, but let the things of today be my only concern and draw me closer to you.

Strengthen me for the difficult or unpleasant tasks I may face: showing love to the ungrateful, being patient with the troublesome, gentle with the weak and helpless, or tolerant of the demanding.

Supported by you, Lord, may I give my best to my work, not seeking praise or reward, but doing all for love of you. Keep me alert to any opportunity of making your Divine Presence felt among those I meet today. Guard me from giving in to temptations of irritability or unkindness and let me feel your gentle Love radiating through me to all whom you have entrusted to my care.



### Support Our Seminarians

For the fifth year, the Knights of Columbus are participating in a State K. of C. project to support our seminarians.

100 percent of what is collected here will support seminarians in the Diocese of Toledo. If you would like to make a donation, use the blue envelopes on the tables and drop them in the collection basket or drop them off in the parish office. Envelopes will remain in church at least the end of March. Thank you for your support!



### The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen

Joy never comes to those who seek it. In the self-for-getting hour when we are touched by another's need and sacrifice for it, we suddenly find our soul aflame with glorious joy.

### Bulletin Items Due

- March 31 bulletin due Monday, March 25 by 10 a.m.
- April 7 bulletin due Tuesday, April 2 by 10 a.m.
- April 14 bulletin due Friday, April 5 by 10 a.m.

### A Vocation View

The world tempts us to grab all we can. Even food becomes more when it is given than when it is taken. Follow Jesus: be a giver.



**Holy Week**



Wednesday, March 27

Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m.

Along with the Religious Education students

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday Mass – 7 p.m.

Adoration 8-10 p.m.

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Service – 12 p.m.

Saturday, March 30

Easter Vigil – 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 31

Normal Mass Times

**Attention Parishioners!**

Some of the Masses during Holy Week we will be using incense.



**Fish Fry**

Weekly Fish Fries on Fridays have started. Fish Fries are in the Parish Life Center from 4:30-6:45 p.m. Dinner includes Alaskan pollock, baked potato, cole slaw, applesauce, mac & cheese, dinner roll and dessert. Dine in or carryout. \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 7-12, ages 6 and under and 90 and over eat free. 1<sup>st</sup> responders and in uniform are free.

**Thank You** to this partial list of donors of Easter flowers for the church:

- Ann Berry
- Sue Creps
- Rich & Ann Flory
- Mary Ann Hauzer in memory of Tad Hauzer
- Lee & Karen Riches in memory of Bill & Theresa Gustwiller
- Margaret Brown in memory of Wenzlick Family
- Karen Mielke in memory of Tim & Abe Mielke



**Would You Like To Be On Our Prayer Chain List?**

Contact Sue Davis at 419-266-6956 or [dsdavis1965@gmail.com](mailto:dsdavis1965@gmail.com). Please give her your name and email address and she will add you on the Prayer Chain!

**2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**

Goal: \$21,413.33

So Far: \$4,573.00

**The Parish Office Will Be Closed** on Tuesday, March 26 and Friday, March 29.

**Teenagers**

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought the Almighty had given him two feet. Without hesitation the son replied, “One for the brakes and one for the accelerator.”

**A Prayer for My Parish**

Almighty God, my parish family is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish family of loyalty, love, fearlessness and faith, and a parish with a noble spirit, if I – who make it what it is – am filled with these same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish family to be. Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might build the Church through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

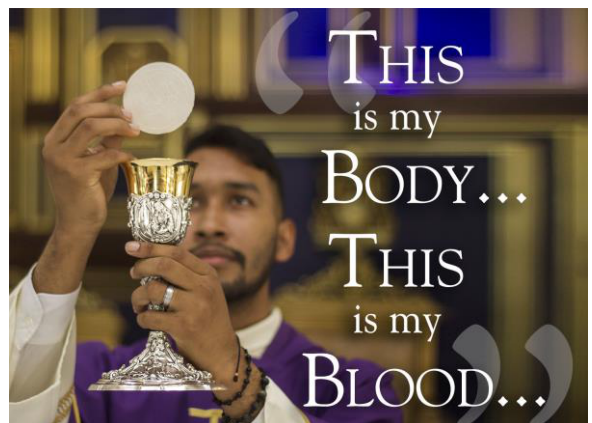
**Winter Cemetery Decorations**

Any winter decorations at the cemetery need to remove by March 31.

**Need a Sacramental Gift?**

Reger’s Church Supplies is the right spot to get one. They have gifts for Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation, and high school seniors graduating. They are located at 1220 Ford St., Maumee, OH 43537.

**Videographers**, if you’re willing to record any Easter Mass, please contact the parish office.



**Temptation**

“When tempted, invoke your Angel. He is more eager to help you than you are to be helped! Ignore the devil and do not be afraid of him: He trembles and flees at the sight of your Guardian Angel.” [St. John Bosco]

**Gluten Free Hosts** are available here at St. Caspar's. Before Mass, please let Father know you are Gluten Free and have a pix ready with your name on it.

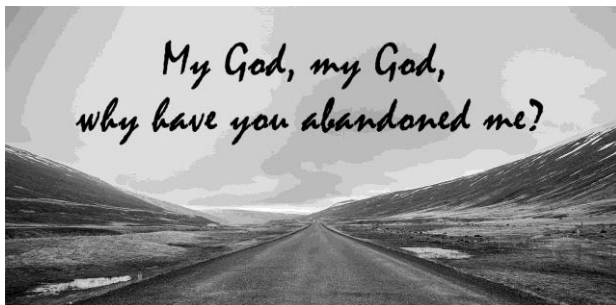
### Don't Be Quick To Find Fault

I am always appalled at how verbally nasty human beings can be toward one another. That is, until I find myself doing the same thing! I always have very good reasons and excuses for why I want to catch someone else in their weaknesses. The hostility and plotting of the scribes and Pharisees isn't really all that different from my actions or from what happens in most human situations from time to time. The desire to catch others in what appears to be their weaknesses is very unkind and uncaring.

Two things help me to avoid this unloving attitude. One is to be more aware of the presence of God in the other person. I am not so quick to criticize and find fault when I really believe that God dwells within someone else. The other is to become more aware of my own motivations. Insecurity, hurt, revenge or the desire to feel better about myself can all be unloving motivations for naming someone else's weaknesses.

### Have Some Men's Long-Sleeved Shirts to Donate?

For National Farmworker Awareness Week, PathStone in Liberty Center are collecting long-sleeved shirts to protect farmworkers from pesticide exposure and heart-related illnesses. A box will be in the vestibule for your donations and this collection ends on Palm Sunday weekend.



### Food for Thought...

Instead of beating yourself up when you're slipping, rejoice in the fact that you have the power to pull yourself back up.

### Church One-Liners

- Exposure to the Son may prevent burning
- Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church
- Wal-Mart isn't the only saving place!
- Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible
- Forbidden fruit creates many jams
- Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies
- God answers knee mail

**"Thank You"** is a little phrase, but still, it's meant to show your kindness is appreciated more than you could know.



### Quote of the Day

"Great occasions for serving God come seldom but little ones surround us daily."  
[St. Francis de Sales]



### St. Caspar's Musician Situation Is Improving, BUT...

We've been blessed that non-parishioner Chris Bott has stepped forward as our new pianist as well as two new vocalists/cantors. A guitarist or two is still needed for the Spirit Seekers; but other instruments could be a possibility, too. If you're interested, know of someone, or have questions, please call Leon Smith (419-445-2885).

We also could use more vocalists/cantors. The schedule is set monthly after vocalists submit their availability. Volunteering even once or twice a month would be helpful. Interested or have questions? Call Sue Dieringer (419-335-1601).

A huge thank you to all those participating in our music ministry. You are a blessing to this parish in enhancing our liturgies.

# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## Repent, and believe in the Gospel

On Ash Wednesday, many Catholics heard the words “Repent and believe in the Gospel,” as blessed ashes were imposed on their foreheads. These first words spoken by Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry (Mark 1:15), were addressed to each sinner who came forward (that is, to everyone!). At once these words are an exhortation to turn away from sin and turn back to our merciful Father, an encouragement to follow Jesus and his teachings more faithfully, and an invitation to true sorrow for our sins. Lent is the sacred time when, through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we strive to make right our relationships with the Lord and with one another.



Since the 18 December 2023 publication of the Declaration *Fiducia supplicans* (FS), on the pastoral meaning of blessings, by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, I have received numerous questions and expressions of serious reservation, concern and confusion. While the text of *Fiducia supplicans* stated that no further guidance or response would be given (FS 41), on 4 January 2024, the same Dicastery published a [press release](#) (PR) listing several previously unmentioned conditions for blessings of couples in

irregular situations and same sex couples, seeking to clarify the reception of *Fiducia supplicans*, and recommending “a full and calm reading of the Declaration so as to better understand its meaning and purpose” (PR Intro).

Now, after taking time for a full and calm reading; and after listening to, consultation with and being encouraged by several lay faithful, consecrated religious and clergy, including members of our diocesan consultative bodies, I offer the following observations in exercise of my apostolic mission of teaching, governing, and sanctifying the flock entrusted to my care (PR 2).

To be clear, there is no change to the Catholic Church’s perennial teaching on marriage. The divinely revealed truth is that marriage is the “exclusive, stable, and indissoluble union between a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children” (FS 4). Jesus himself taught this definition of marriage willed by the Creator “in the beginning” (cf. Matthew 19:3-9; Genesis 1-2). His Church has faithfully shared his teaching even when differing forms of unions have been promoted by popular cultures in various eras of history.

The Declaration highlights the common practice of Catholics seeking God’s help and guidance in their lives by approaching an ordained minister outside a liturgical context, for a brief prayer of blessing. The Declaration proposes that couples in irregular unions or same-sex unions can receive such informal blessings which are pastoral, not liturgical, in which there is “no intention to legitimize anything” (FS 40) of the immoral lifestyle of those blessed.



But herein lies the confusion. How can the blessing of a couple not be seen as the blessing of their union? Many, having read the documents, have commented to me that they would realistically see only two scenarios of requests for such blessings: a) those couples in irregular unions or same sex unions who are genuinely struggling and earnestly desiring the help of the Church's minister to repent, to follow the Gospel, and to make right their relationship with the Lord and with each other; and b) those couples who desire the Church's minister to condone their situation and affirm that the Lord blesses their union. In the first situation, a request for a blessing is a petition for grace to repent. In the second, a request for a blessing expresses a misguided attempt for approval of an immoral lifestyle which is incongruent with Jesus' teaching.

As shepherd of this local flock, having listened to many of my people, I worry that while *Fiducia supplicans* and the subsequent press release go to great lengths to insist that the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same sex couples does not officially validate their status or change in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage; nevertheless, the reality of performing such proposed blessings lends itself to causing grave scandal.

As we all know, for so many, perception is reality. If a cleric is blessing a couple, it is hard to imagine how that is not seen as a blessing of their union. Such a blessing, it seems to me, could well be misunderstood by the couples themselves and by the faithful, thus being perceived as a blessing of the union, not just the couple. Such blessings would somehow compromise or weaken the Church's perennial teaching either by intention or neglect, because they lack the clarity necessary to assuage misinterpretation, misunderstanding and erroneous conclusions.

Deeply grateful for the hardworking and dedicated clergy serving in the Diocese of Toledo, I encourage them to continue to pray spontaneous non-liturgical prayers with any persons who seek physical, mental, or spiritual health, wisdom in times of crisis and decision-making, grace to fight against temptation, and courage to leave sinful lifestyles and follow Jesus in freedom. This of course includes individuals who may find themselves in irregular or same sex unions, addressing them with love, offering them hope and calling them to conversion of mind and heart. As *Fiducia supplicans* #5

and the press release articulate, same-sex unions and irregular unions cannot and should not be blessed (PR 2). Thus, it would be morally inappropriate, misleading, and scandalous for clergy in our diocese to pray with a couple in any manner that would feign to approve, condone, endorse, or validate an irregular or same-sex union (PR 5). Ultimately, this could cause scandal for the couples themselves, for the faithful, and for society at large.

Catholic parents of children in irregular or same-sex unions know the complexity of accompanying their children with patient, prudent, and prayerful acts of charity and hospitality which do not obscure, but in fact, allow for the truth of Jesus' teaching about marriage and family to be more clearly revealed and embraced. I trust that the clergy of our diocese will continue to dedicate themselves to exercising their spiritual fatherhood with patience, prudence, and prayer, teaching the unchanging truths of our faith with clarity and accompanying all the people of God, particularly those who struggle.

It is essential for me to express gratitude and encouragement for all in our diocese who faithfully make serious sacrifices in striving to live Jesus' teaching on marriage and family life. Your dedication provides a much-needed witness amid chaos and confusion about the sacred realities of marriage and family. There are those in irregular unions who, out of respect for Jesus' teaching, still come to Mass but refrain from receiving the Holy Eucharist. There are those who experience same-sex attraction but strive to live chastely. We support, accompany, and reassure them as they strive to remain faithful to the Lord's Will.

While discordant voices will continue to engage in debate about the proper path forward for the Church, I invite everyone to join me in remaining faithful, not losing heart, and in focusing more intensely on Jesus and his call to conversion, whatever our vocation. Pray that together we might recognize that we are all sinners, urged anew this Lent to hear and heed the exhortation of Jesus himself: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
February 29, 2024

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Ted & Mary Ellyn Blank  
We love and miss you so much!

Abram Brown  
May you find comfort in the arms of an angel.

M. Carl & Helen Hill  
You are loved and missed!

Elgar & Lucy Mandly Family  
You are in our hearts always.

Michael Potter & Carolyn Meiring  
Miss you both.

Donald E. Yoder & Janet Yoder-Kline  
We love and miss you every day.

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