



March 27, 2020

Sisters and Brothers!

We pray this finds you well!

Much has changed as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads around the world, across our country, into our State of Ohio, and into our home, the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Fear and confusion grow as the apparent loss of control and isolation threaten many of us in ways that they have never experienced before in America. Our bishop and other leadership have risen to that challenge and created many helpful ways to keep us connected to God and each other as we face this together. We are all strengthened by the momentum that our collective journey toward Becoming Beloved Community has provided; we are prepared. We know that God always was and is still in control. We know that God still has work for us to do. And we know that we do it best when we do it together. That never changes; no matter what else does.

“³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” Acts 4:32-35

It is with these verses from Acts above in mind that we now move forward, as we do every year at this time, with beginning the process to create our diocesan budget for next year. As you know, it will ultimately be approved and adopted by you at our diocesan convention in November, but we, the Budget Committee, are responsible for working with you through the Budget Request application process to review all requests for funding for 2021. We listened to your input and recommendations you made to us and have completely revised the application. It has been simplified and includes the strategic objectives that Diocesan Council, in conjunction with last year’s diocesan convention, has established and approved at their February 2020 meeting. The strategic objectives are foundational to the budget allocation process and will be used as a guide to help in the funding decision making. Please review it and use it as you prepare your Budget Request application. It will be very helpful to those of you who will be preparing applications and we do look forward to working with you on this critically important part of the process. As an additional aide, we are also providing an example of a completed application for your review.

The Budget Request application is now available. The deadline for receiving your Budget Request application in the diocesan office is Friday, May 1, 2020. If you have any

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The Diocese of Southern Ohio

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questions while working on the application or if for any reason have a concern about making the deadline, please reach Carine de Lange (cdelange@diosohio.org) or John Johanssen (jjohanssen@diosohio.org) at the diocesan office. Our draft 2021 Budget must be submitted to Diocesan Council at their September meeting, so we really need your applications in on time. Once received, a member of the Budget Committee will become your shepherd. Your shepherd will be contacting you to gain a complete understanding of the contribution your work will make to God's work here in our diocese and will be your advocate as it moves through the process. Thanks so much!

"¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12

Peace and blessings.....

Harold Patrick
Chair of the Budget Committee