



February 24, 2006

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It becomes clear as I travel throughout the Diocese and beyond that the value of hard work and commitment to community are more than just superficial considerations to the people of our Diocese. The response to the natural disasters that have affected our local communities, country and the world has been inspiring. The rousing presence of faith within our people has shed tremendous hope on the growth of our Church. This sense of responsibility and true stewardship can only be attributed to the individual realization that to love our fellow man is to love Christ. The Holy Father himself states in his recent encyclical that the love of God must be reflected in the love of one's neighbor. As a Diocese I believe it is our duty to respond to this call in proportion to the many gifts with which we in southern and south-central Wisconsin have been blessed. I am grateful to each of you for your generous support of so many worthy causes.

Each year we are called upon personally to support the ministries we as a Diocesan community maintain to effectively reach out to those in need. The Diocesan Services Appeal provides us with an exceptional opportunity to live out our faith in a very real sense. Supporting your parish in meeting the goals of our appeal establishes a firm, united base where we may more effectively feed the poor, shelter the homeless and assist the suffering and afflicted. Through the administrative offices of the Diocese we provide service many individual parishes could not support on their own and uphold the initiatives and teaching of the Universal Church. Our participation is vital to the continuation of ministries that exemplify the unselfish love we are all ultimately called to share.

As we approach this holy Lenten season, I ask for your continued support of the Diocesan Services Appeal. Consider what generosity God has shared with each of us when answering this call to support the Diocese and the good works we seek to provide. Be assured of my continued prayers for your families and parishes. God bless us as we continue the work of Christ Risen!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Morlino".

Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

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