

January 10, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Peace and all good things!

“Some seeds fell on rich soil, where they produced fruit—a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”Matthew 13:8

This is a parable that we learn as a child. If we plant seeds in soil that is filled with rocks or thorns, or where they can be easily trampled, the seeds will not survive. However, when we plant seeds in good soil they take root and flourish. Like the soil that has been enriched, our hearts must be fed and tended to in order to receive God’s Word, to understand it and to put it into action.

The many ministries throughout our diocese are also like the seeds that must be nurtured. Your generous heart is the good soil. When supported and nourished, the education of our seminarians and permanent deacons, programs for outreach to the poor, and continued faith formation and evangelization within our parishes will take root and spread for this generation and generations to come.

This year, we have made changes to our annual appeal which include changing the name to the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. This change puts focus back on our Catholic mission to support our brothers and sisters in faith. The word Catholic means “universal” and, like the seeds in the parable, we all grow in God’s universal love.

This year’s appeal...**Sowing the Seeds**...is a return to our central focus to support these core ministries and programs. I am certain that our efforts will prosper as you participate with a loving spirit of generosity in this year’s **Annual Catholic Appeal**. Thank you for all that you do to serve Christ’s people and His Church. We blend our hearts into one voice as we continue **Sowing the Seeds**.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.

Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Bishop of Savannah