



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Date: Aug. 9, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and blessings to you and your families.

I write to share an important update regarding the way our Diocese will participate in the **National Collections** established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). For many years, support for many of these collections came directly from the Diocese's annual **Christ Mission Appeal**. After prayerful discernment, consultation with the Diocesan Finance Council and leadership team, we have made a change to how we support these vital missions of the Church.

Beginning this fiscal year, individual parishes will be invited to participate directly in the National Collections throughout the year. These collections — ranging from support for the Church in Latin America, to outreach in the Holy Land, to assisting Catholic communication efforts — offer each of us the opportunity to take part in the Church's mission of mercy, education, evangelization, and solidarity across the globe.

This change offers several meaningful benefits:

- **You, the faithful, now can give more intentionally**, responding to the collections that resonate most personally with you and your family.
- **The collections are spread throughout the year**, allowing for more thoughtful discernment and less pressure on your household budget.
- **Parishes will receive materials directly from the USCCB at no cost**, including envelopes and brochures to help communicate each collection's mission and impact.

We are confident that this approach will not only honor the spirit of giving in our local Church but also deepen our shared commitment to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Further information about each collection will be made available at your parish and through the Diocesan Mission Office. While participation is not mandatory, I encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting these important efforts throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you live out your faith through prayer, service, and stewardship. May we continue to be a people of mission and mercy — at home, and throughout the world.

In Christ's peace,

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw