

DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH
 MISSIONARY
DISCIPLES

January 29, 2018

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Peace and all good things!

Each of us is called by name and sent as a missionary disciple to bear witness to Jesus. This is our mission, the very nature of what it means to be Catholic. According to Pope Francis, “We are all missionary disciples with the power of the Spirit.”

In the Diocese of Savannah, we are a family of faith and a community that is dedicated to proclaiming God’s word especially to those most in need physically, emotionally and spiritually. We do this through our commitment and support of our seminarians and those in consecrated life, our dedication to faith formation and evangelization in our parishes and our responsibility to provide outreach to the poor.

Your faithful love for Christ is reflected in the support that you give to serve others through your charitable works of mercy. Together, we are called to serve God’s people in word and deed and to spread this commitment to all Catholics in our wonderful diocese.

This year, I am proud to introduce our theme, *Missionary Disciples*. Through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal we will continue to support our seminarians and religious vocations, faith formation and evangelization for every generation and our outreach to those in need through Catholic Social Services. Your generosity makes it possible to continue our mission through a variety of ministries, programs and services which deepen and renew our faith and bring hope, healing and the love of Christ to all in the Diocese of Savannah.

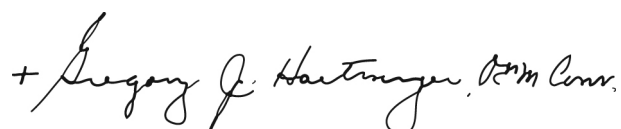
As *Missionary Disciples*, I pray that you share the spirit of the Appeal so that together we can continue to advance God’s love through charity. The individuals, agencies and initiatives supported by you provide the means to respond to the spiritual, educational and physical needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. I ask that you dedicate yourself to a conversion of heart and a generosity of spirit.

I am certain that our efforts will prosper as you participate in a loving spirit of generosity in this year’s Appeal. Thank you for all that you do to serve Christ’s people and His Church as *Missionary Disciples*.

With prayerful best wishes, I am



Sincerely yours in Christ,

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