

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Thomas the Apostle
in St. Thomas

St. Cecilia
in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

www.stceciliameta.net

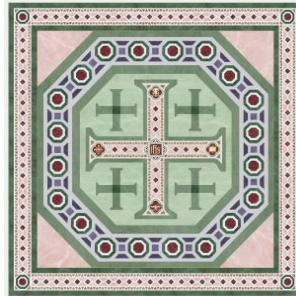
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 19, 2020

Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Doris Stumpe
dstumpeoffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St. Cecilia Rectory Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. and
Sundays 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. at St. Cecilia; or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of July 19-26:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Anton & Alma Boessen Family
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – No Mass (Summer Schedule)
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Jerome & Dot Buschjost
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Gerry Luebbering
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – James Bimbo Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$ 25,417.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$ 15,118.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 10,299.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

July 5 \$ 4,551.00
July 12 \$ 5,550.00
July 19 \$
July 26 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,017.00

July total to date: **\$ 15,118.00**

Difference for July: – \$ 10,299.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021

(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$1,265.00**

Loan payments to date for FY 2020-2021: **\$ 0.00**

Principal \$0.00 Interest \$0.00

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$95,833.45**

Cantor/Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Anne Strope / Annette Kehner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lisa Wieberg / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Dave Schroeder

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Eric Strope & Mark Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Stockman & Mattheuw Prenger

Mass live streamers

July 26 – Jennifer Schroeder

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of July 19-26:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Martina Goeller

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$ 2,395.00**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

July 5 \$ 1,445.00
July 12 \$ 950.00
July 19 \$
July 26 \$

July total to date: **\$ 2,395.00**

Difference for July: – \$ 2,771.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

July: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

August: Dale & Margie Helton

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR
LAST WILL & TESTAMENT**

St. Cecilia Reader:

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. – Margaret Brune – Glorious Mysteries

Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Reghagen – Glorious Mysteries

St. Cecilia Ushers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Larry Lueckenotto & Leon Schanzmeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Thursday 7:20 a.m. – Viola Boessen – Luminous Mysteries

Friday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Sorrowful Mysteries

Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Paul Becker – Glorious Mysteries

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Glorious Mysteries

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime. A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S JULY PRAYER INTENTION: For the unity of our country: that the God of truth may open our hearts to the truth of the Gospel, that peace may rule our hearts, and that justice may guide our nation of one people of many races.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 16th Sunday in ordinary time, Our acts of charity, kindness, mercy, encouragement and love can prompt the “weeds” in our society to modify their lives and become useful members of society.

Today's readings tell us about a very patient and compassionate God Who is hopeful that the so-called “weeds” among us will be converted. They warn us that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church or society or the family based on unwarranted and hasty judgment.

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom shows us a merciful and patient God, rather than the disciplining and punishing God presented in the book of Genesis. The second reading from Romans reminds us that the Spirit of God constantly empowers us in our prayers and in our weakness. So, we should be patient with ourselves and with others. Finally, in the Gospel Jesus presents a wise and patient God who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that they may come to conversion before their time ends. “*Let the wheat and the weeds grow together till the harvest time.*” In other words, God awaits repentant sinners, giving them the strength and good will to get reconciled with Him. God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil is no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who fail to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian.

Dear friends we need to practice patience and show mercy. Let us patiently and lovingly treat the “weeds” in our society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to Heaven, especially by our good example, encouragement and our fervent prayer for their conversion. Let us remember that most of us have been “weeds” in God's field more than once, and God has shown us mercy. God is so merciful that He allows evil to exist in order that what is good may grow. He allows evil to exist also because He can turn it into good. Through the power of the Spirit, God can change even the ugliest thorn into a blossom of Faith. In God's field, we have two responsibilities: to grow in grace or God's favor and to share His Word and love with others; we need to grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the “weeds” for God to take care of. The Good News is that growth and maturity are probably the most effective forms of weed control. Our transparent and exemplary Christian lives will be a compelling challenge and a forceful invitation to evildoers to repent of their sinful lives and turn to a loving and forgiving God. Our acts of charity, kindness, mercy, encouragement, loving correction and selfless service can prompt the “weeds” in our society to reassess their lives, modify them and become useful members of society. *Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi*

NOTE TO ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHIONERS “MASS CHANGES AFTER JUNE 16, 2020”: As you may have heard, Governor Parson lifted the statewide health order beginning June 16, 2020. Shortly thereafter, the Diocese of Jefferson City issued an updated Decree On Pastoral Activities which loosens some of the previous restrictions. The Decree document is on page 4 of the bulletin and also on the website and Facebook page. With these considerations in mind, the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will be implementing new guidelines starting immediately:

- Masks are encouraged.
- If you are symptomatic for COVID-19 please do not enter church.

SEATING:

- The Blessed Virgin Mary side of the church will remain roped off for the next few weeks to allow for continued social distancing for those who prefer it.
- The St. Joseph side of the church and balcony will be open for seating as normal. Usher and Reader assignments will return to normal. Please watch the bulletin. If you do not wish to be assigned, please contact Diane Lueckenhoff at 573-645-5794, dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com or the Parish Office. Special instructions (checklist) for Ushers will be in back of church at each entrance. You are responsible for finding a replacement.
- Please maintain social distancing during Communion. The floor is marked for this purpose.
- There will be no offertory procession or sign of peace.
- Stationary basket(s) are available for offertory collection envelopes. The baskets are currently located in the aisle near handicap pew.
- Communion ministers are to sanitize hands before **and** after distributing Holy Communion and must use facemasks during distribution of Holy Communion.
- Missals are at the back of church. If you take one, please take it home with you as this becomes your personal missal.
- Hand sanitizers and masks are available in back of church.
- Holy water fonts will remain empty.
- If you are uncomfortable in returning to Mass at St Thomas the Apostle, Bishop McKnight has dispensed the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligations until September 11, 2020 provided you follow one of the three (3) obligations found in his decree. St Thomas the Apostle will continue to live stream the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass for you to view. Thanks for your patience!

PLEASE READ: ST. CECILIA CHURCH MASS CHANGES AFTER JUNE 16, 2020: With the uplifting of the statewide health order that began on June 15, 2020 and the update from the Diocese of Jefferson City on Decree on Pastoral Activities, the following will apply to St. Cecilia Church. The Decree document is located on page 4 of the bulletin and is posted on the website.

- Entrance is thru the front door and after mass you may exit thru front door and side doors.
- If you have a fever, cough, sore throat, symptomatic or been exposed to someone with the virus within the last 14 days- PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS.
- Masks are encouraged.
- SEATING: The left side of church is open with the right side of the church with pews marked for seating in every other row as previous. Feel free to set where you feel most comfortable. Social distancing is still encouraged.
- There will be no offertory or sign of peace.
- Maintain social distancing during communion, the floor is marked for the distancing.
- The tithe/offertory basket is located in the aisle in entrance of church.
- Missals are located in the back of church, if you take one, please take home after mass and bring back with you to the next mass Please do not put back on the table.
- Holy Fonts will remain empty of holy water.

- If you are uncomfortable in coming back to Mass, Bishop McKnight has dispensed the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday's and Holy Days of Obligations until September 11, 2020 provided you follow one of the three (3) obligations found in his decree.

THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY warns the public of what appears to be an ongoing phishing scam involving emails and texts purportedly from priests or parish/Chancery staff. This scam has hit many parishes across the United States. The email or text purports to be from a person the target knows, such as one's pastor, a parish staff member, the bishop or someone else from the Church. If the target responds to the fake email or text, the sender will follow up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance, often for gift cards or iTunes cards. It is truly unfortunate cyber criminals will attempt to exploit the generous nature of our community. Sending emails or texts asking for cash or gifts cards is not how priests, parishes or the Diocese of Jefferson City seeks financial assistance for our work. If you receive an email or text from a trusted church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person and do NOT respond to the email or text. For more information on phishing scams and email security, or The FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint is <https://www.ic3.gov>.

MENTORED IN CHRIST is a full day workshop for anyone serving a catechetical role in parishes is Friday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral Undercroft. Light breakfast & full lunch are provided and there is no cost to participate. Please register on line on the Diocese of Jefferson City website - Upcoming Workshops.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE RECTORY HOUSE CLEANING: St Thomas the Apostle is looking for someone to conduct a monthly (or as needed) deep cleaning of Fr. Leonard's house. This could be for contract hire (on a per cleaning basis) or as part of your monthly stewardship. Anyone interested feel free to contact the St. Thomas Parish Office or call Alan Reinkemeyer at 573-694-6984 by August 1, 2020. Additional details on the size and scope of the cleaning duties will be shared once interested parties make contact. Thanks

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The St. Thomas Parish Pastoral Council will have a meeting on Tuesday July 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Many items will be on this agenda. We welcome our newest members Bob Schellman, Sarah Luebbert and Debbie Strope.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE QUILT GROUPS: The group list for the 2021 parish picnic was attached to the bulletin last weekend. Additional copies are in the entrances of St. Thomas Church or may be found on our web page.

REMINDERS FOR PARISHIONERS that every First Friday of the month, we have a Holy Hour/Adoration followed by Benediction at St. Thomas and at St. Cecilia the last Friday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH will be having a picnic on Sunday, August 16. We will be serving cafeteria style. Menu will be the same. If you cannot work or do not feel comfortable working, please contact Larry Lueckenhoff by text, phone or email 573-619-6783, lueckenhoff@embarqmail.com. The Picnic Committee will be reaching out to the Cole County Health Department for any input/restrictions that they might have.

ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS: The parish is asking each family to donate \$100 and each single household member to donate \$50 to the St. Cecilia Picnic Fund. The Quilt Auction will be held at the Citizens Civic League Fall Supper in September. Proceeds from Quilt Auction will be split as usual. Please put donations in an envelope marked "St. Cecilia Picnic" and checks should be made payable to St. Cecilia Picnic also.

TO ALL COMM-UNITY AMBULANCE MEMBERS: The annual meeting will be held as an **Open House** at the Comm-Unity Ambulance building on **Sunday, July 19, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon**. Refreshments will be served and if there is no parking available, a shuttle from the Civic League Hall to the Comm-Unity Ambulance building will be available. Please come by the ambulance building to take a tour, enjoy some refreshments and place your vote. Bring a friend and invite anyone who may be interested in becoming a member for a small annual fee. The raffle drawing will be held at 11:30 a.m.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of July 12th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of July 19th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of July 26th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of August 2nd: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of August 9th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Thanks to all who volunteer to help keep our Church looking beautiful! Anyone else interested in helping out, please contact Lynne Reinkemeyer at 573-690-7113 and we can add another group.

GRASS CUTTING ROTATION: THE ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH GROUNDS "GRASS CUTTING TEAM ROTATION" FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of July 20: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

Week of July 27: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf

Week of August 3: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Blood Drive – July 19, 8:00 a.m. – noon at the St. Thomas K of C Hall.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic – August 16, 2020

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Farm tractor pull – September 12, 2020

St. Thomas Garden tractor pull – September 19, 2020

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH, WARDSVILLE CHAPEL HOURS: Although the chapel isn't open yet (except Adoration in church M-F, 8-6--and optional for the other times outside those hours) here are the hours that will be available when it does open. Thanks. Saturday morning 4:00-5:00 a.m.; Saturday morning 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Sunday morning 1:00-2:00 a.m.; Sunday morning 2:00-3:00 a.m. (2nd Sunday only); Monday morning 1:00-2:00 a.m.; Monday morning 3:00-4:00 a.m. Please call Donna if you would like to sign up for any of these hours. 680-1470 or 635-2095. Thank you!

THE OSAGE SENIOR CENTER located in Wardsville, has an urgent need for a part time general maintenance person. If you are retired or a full time worker wanting a to work a few hours each week and would like to earn a little extra cash, call 573-469-8426 or email OSC@gmail.com.

WKCSO FALL SOCCER SIGN-UPS will be held at the Westphalia KC hall on Monday evening, July 27 from 4:00-6:00 PM. All kids ages 3-14 (on 8/1/20) welcome. Email wksoccerclub@gmail.com with any questions.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT COVID-19 PANDEMIC REMINDERS: Please check the Diocesan webpage at <https://diojeffcity.org/public-health/> Information can be found on the St Thomas Parish website at <http://www.stthomasapostle.net/> and St. Cecilia website at <http://www.stceciliameta.net/>

Tithe/Financial Commitment: Please strive to keep up with your **financial commitment** to the parish during this time when public worship and events have been restricted or suspended. The work of our parishes and staff continues with ongoing expenses and

financial obligations. There will be a basket in Church to place your envelope in if you attend Mass." **St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners** can mail contributions to the parish office at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, PO Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076. Or you may sign up for electronic giving through ACH payments. Blank ACH forms are available in St. Thomas the Apostle Church entrances and on the parish website. Call or email the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish office if you have questions about ACH payments.

For St. Cecilia Parishioners that would like to contribute towards their weekly/monthly Tithe, please feel free to do so. The contribution envelope can be mailed to St. Cecilia Parish, P.O. Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076 to the attention of Doris Stumpe. Your contribution will be graciously appreciated to keep the upkeep/expenses of the parish going during this time of COVID-19.

Outreach to our parish community/vicinity: Please contact the parish offices, Father Leonard or a PPC member of your needs or the needs of others. If you wish to volunteer, the Diocese enrollment is at <https://diojeffcity.org/parish-disaster-responders-team-volunteer-form>. If you know of someone needing assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Updates and Communications: Ongoing updates will be communicated through the following: St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia parish websites, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and School Facebook pages, marquee signs at both churches, and church bulletins.

Other Information: The CDC's COVID-19 page is an accurate, credible source that is consistently updated with directives from the White House. The webpage is found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Decree on pastoral activities following the governor's declaration lifting statewide restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic

June 15, 2020 | Public Health Concerns: Whereas Governor Mike Parson has lifted the statewide health order beginning 16 June 2020, leaving the determination of public health requirements to local governments; and Whereas the Department of Health and Senior Services of the State of Missouri and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Federal Government continue to recommend: the observance of social distancing and the use of face masks when in gatherings; that persons 65 years of age and older, as well as those with certain medical conditions, avoid public gatherings as much as possible; and the practice of frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizers; and Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; I therefore declare, as the diocesan bishop, the following: 1. All the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and those who are present in the territory of the Diocese, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until 11 September 2020, provided that for days of precept after 1 July 2020 they do one of the following:

- a. Participate in the Sunday or holy day of obligation Mass livestreamed from their parish church or chapel, the Cathedral, or the Vatican.
 - b. Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy day of obligation, and recite the rosary.
 - c. Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy day of obligation, and recite the Divine Mercy chaplet.
2. Parishes are highly encouraged to livestream Masses for Sundays and holy days of obligation through Labor Day weekend.
3. Those who are symptomatic for COVID-19 are not permitted to enter church properties, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All are asked to check their temperature at home before going to church.
4. Those who are 65 years of age or older, and those with medical conditions, are highly encouraged not to go to Mass when it is likely that there will be a large number of the faithful in attendance or if social distancing and the wearing of face masks are not observed.
5. Those who do not attend Mass on Sundays are encouraged to attend Mass on a weekday if it would be easier to observe the proper social distancing and other health recommendations.
6. Pastors, parochial administrators, parish life collaborators, and the presidents and principals of Catholic schools are strictly obliged to follow the public health requirements, directives or orders of local government officials for gatherings of the faithful, including for the celebrations of Mass, weddings and funerals, other liturgies, devotions, school and catechetical activities, social events, sports activities, and meetings.
7. The celebration of weddings outside of Mass may take place outdoors on the grounds of and in proximity to the parish church or chapels, according to the judgement of the pastor, parochial administrator, or parish life collaborator.
8. The observance of social distancing, the use of face masks, and all other public health recommendations of state authorities should be followed whenever possible, according to the judgment of the pastor, parochial administrator, parish life collaborator, president or principal. Consultation with the bishop, vicar general, moderator of the curia, local dean, liturgy commission chairman, or superintendent is recommended.
9. The use of face masks upon entering the church, during the celebration of Mass except when in place in the pew, during the Communion procession, and upon leaving the church is highly encouraged.
10. The offertory procession, the sign of peace, and Holy Communion from the chalice shall continue to be suspended. One or more stationary collection baskets are to be used rather than baskets passed or taken up by ushers. Where it has been the practice, the holding of hands during the Our Father must not be done.
11. Communion ministers are to sanitize their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion, and they must use face masks during the distribution of Holy Communion. 12. Communicants are encouraged to wear face masks during the reception of Holy Communion, and it is requested that Holy Communion be received in the hand.
13. Those who persist in their desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue may do so but only after those who receive Holy Communion in the hand, or in a Communion line designated solely for Holy Communion on the tongue. Communion ministers must purify and then sanitize their fingers after distributing Holy Communion on the tongue to each household.
14. High use areas within the church must be cleaned after each service:
- a. The pews used by the assembly shall be cleaned after each use.
 - b. Restroom facilities and door handles, push plates, and door knobs are to be sanitized after each service.
 - c. It is advisable to have entrance and exit doors propped open during high traffic volumes before and after Mass.
15. Hymnals and other books are to remain stored for the duration of the pandemic. No materials may be left in the pews or adoration chapels. The faithful are encouraged to bring their own missals, hymnals and devotional books.
16. Holy water fonts shall remain empty.
17. Hand sanitizer should be made available throughout church and school facilities.

This decree is effective from 16 June 2020 and until 11 September 2020, anything to the contrary notwithstanding. Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 15th day of June 2020.

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City

Diocesan Mission Collection

Dear Friends in Christ,

Next weekend is our annual Diocesan Mission Collection. We currently have 15 priests serving in our diocese from Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, India, and Uganda. Their home diocese and families are making sacrifices by sharing them with us. In return, we are able to share some of our financial resources with their home dioceses. From feeding families in Latin America to building chapels in India, we are called to share whatever our resources may be.

This year is a very unique one, in that we are all suffering at home and globally due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some might insist that charity and mercy start at home. I agree, but we can't stop there. From disease, to hunger, to education of children, our current situation is what many people throughout the world suffer every day. Most of us have been so abundantly blessed that we can help both at home and abroad.

Your generosity to the Diocesan Mission Collection will impact the lives of some of the most vulnerable people living around the world. Our Mission Collection is about fostering relationships and making the sharing of charity and mercy possible. I ask that you be generous, not because you have to, but because you believe in strengthening the Universal Church.

Invoking the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Patroness, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City

