

November 9, 2025

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

511 N. Conrad Street
Peotone, IL 60468-9290

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 708 258-6917
CHURCH OFFICE FAX: 708 258-3061
CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: StPaulPeotone@att.net

PASTOR: Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI
815 468-1954 / Theneth52@gmail.com

DEACON: Mr. James Kelly
815 412-0565

DEACON E-MAIL: jimk3163@sbcglobal.net

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER: Paula Prium

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON:

CCW PRESIDENT: Marge Harms

GRAND KNIGHT of K of C: Ron LeClaire

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Steve Maltese

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Al Leffelman

WORSHIP COMMISSION: Paula Prium

CHRISTIAN FORMATION / EDUCATION COMMISSION:

SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR: Mary Ann Battermann

MINISTERS OF CARE: Barb Egelski

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Dcn Jim Kelly

RE OFFICE E-MAIL: StPaulRE@att.net

RE OFFICE PHONE: 708 258-9580

FAITH FORMATION (RELIGIOUS ED) CLASSES:

Grades 1 through 8: Wednesday from 6:15pm—7:30pm

Find us—

Facebook: "[St. Paul the Apostle Peotone](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulPeotone)"

Website: StPaulPeotone.org

YouTube: [Saint Paul the Apostle Peotone](https://www.youtube.com/SaintPaultheApostlePeotone)

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office
RECONCILIATION: Thursday: 7:15pm to 7:45pm
Saturday: 3pm to 3:45pm
Any time by appointment

FIRST RECONCILIATION: To be announced
FIRST COMMUNION: To be announced

CONFIRMATION: May 9, 2026 at 11am
MARRIAGE: By appointment only

Please call at least 6 months in advance

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Call anytime

Please call the parish office to inform us of an illness or hospitalization of a parishioner or family member. Privacy laws prohibit hospitals from releasing information to clergy about hospitalized church members without the specific consent and request of the patient or their immediate family.

ORDINARY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4pm

Sunday: 11am

Daily Mass: Tue, Wed and Fri 8:30am

Communion Services: Mon and Thrs 8:30am

Holy Days of Obligation: Please see the bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 6pm to 8pm

Communion Calls: If you or someone you love is ill or homebound and would like to receive Communion, please call the parish office to make arrangements for regular visits.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 12:30pm to 5pm
Regular time to make appointments, registrations, etc.

Regular bulletin deadline: Wednesday by 12pm

WELCOME, VETERANS!



The Mission Statement of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Parish
As disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in relationship with Him,
live the Faith, and share His Good News with others.

Mass Intentions For The Week

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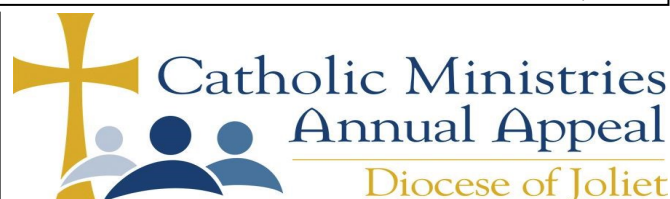
Sat	11/8	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Norman Andrews, Sr.</u> req by Larry & Donna Hansen and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	11/9	11:00 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by David & Kathleen Wilk
Mon	11/10	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	11/11	8:30 am—	<u>Fr. Thomas Birthday Blessings</u>
Wed	11/12	8:30 am—	+ <u>Jack Lund</u> req by Bill & Penny Lund
Thr	11/13	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	11/14	8:30 am—	+ <u>Mike Koomar</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
Sat	11/15	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Juliann Teasdale</u> req by Bob & Helen Lewis
Sun	11/16	11:00 am—	+ <u>David Neybert</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed and <u>People of the Parish</u>

If you are attending a Mass that you requested an intention to be said for, please sign the gift bearer book in the rear of the church and let an usher know you are here if you wish to bring up the gifts.



The flowers at the altar are dedicated in honor of the deceased members of the Rittmanic Family.

If you are interested in sponsoring our bi-weekly altar flower arrangement (when liturgically permitted), possibly in honor of an anniversary or birthday or in memory of a family member, ***please contact the parish office for scheduling details.*** The cost is \$76 and can be shared between one or more parishioners.



CMAA Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid. Since we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs. As of 11/2/25:

PARISH GOAL:	\$15,600
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$35,417
AMOUNT PAID:	\$33,937
REMAINING BALANCE:	\$ 1,480
NUMBER of DONORS:	121
2025 REBATE:	\$12,836

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:

- HM2 Chuck Claxton** (Navy—29 Palms, CA)
Son of Dennis & Pat Claxton
- AN Chase Clyden** (Navy—Asian Seas)
Grandson of Laura (Tom) Jacques;
Great-nephew of Barbara Grantz
- SFC Nicholas Hupke** (Army)
Nephew of Paula (Fred) Prium
- MAJ Jori Ingersoll** (Air Force—Washington State)
Daughter of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.
- SSGT Nate Kijowski** (Marines)
Son of Debbie (John) Ziolkowski Kijowski
- PVT Jake L. O'Connor** (Marines)
Grandson of Marge Brooke
- SSG Sean Rodgers** (Army—Ft. Campbell, KY)
Grandson of Barbara Grantz;
Great-nephew of Laura (Tom) Jacques
- CAPT Joseph Walan** (Air Force—Las Vegas, NV)
Son of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.

Please pray for their safety, spiritual and physical well being and that God will give His peace to their parents and families.



CATHOLIC
CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

Next weekend our second collection will support the ***Catholic Campaign for Human Development***. Nearly 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more

about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd.

POPE'S INTENTIONS for NOVEMBER 2025

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



St. Paul K of C Council # 11232 invites children in grades K through 8 to participate in our "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Poster material and entry forms are available on the table across from the Religious Education Office in the classroom hallway. Completed posters and entry forms are due back no later than November 30. Certificates and prizes for winning entries will be presented at the "Donuts with Santa" event following 11AM Mass on Sunday December 7.

NOVEMBER 2025 RAFFLE WINNERS

\$150.00	#258	Victoria Barajas
\$100.00	#775	Tony Formato
\$ 50.00	#771	Tony Formato
\$ 50.00	#444	Mike Shaughnessy
\$ 25.00	#712	Greg Kunes
\$ 25.00	#796	Ruben Moreno

On Saturday, December 6 at 4pm Mass, Fr. Thomas will be installed by Bishop Ronald Hicks as Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle.



A "finger-food" / dessert reception will be held after Mass.

We are asking you to:

- RSVP if you are attending,
- Bring a dessert, finger food or hors d'oeuvre to share,
- Help with set-up on December 5 / and clean-up after the event

Sign-ups can be found at the back of the church. Kindly RSVP by **Monday, December 1**, so we can plan accordingly.

We look forward to celebrating together and officially welcoming Fr. Thomas as pastor of our parish!



Helping Hands Holiday Meals

Helping Hands is Peotone's Non-profit Food Pantry that currently provides food and other basic essentials twice a month to approx. 80-90 households (about 650 people per month) in the Peotone area who are in need of assistance.

It is organized by a group of volunteers from various churches and the community. It would not be possible without the support and generosity of the community and churches. For every \$1 received, Helping Hands is able to purchase \$8 of food. They distribute over 7 tons of food each month!

Helping Hands is purchasing 180 holiday dinners

**A \$20.00 donation will provide a
Holiday Meal for a family of four!**

Thanksgiving: turkey and all the trimmings!

Christmas: ham and all the trimmings!



Anyone wishing to make a donation can mail it to:
Helping Hands
P.O. Box 508
Peotone, IL 60468

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

Let's **MAKE** Disciples for Jesus!

Download and read Bishop Hicks' new pastoral letter, **MAKE**, to discover how you and your loved ones can live as disciples and help make other disciples in your community.



MAKE.diojoli.org



MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People
of the Diocese of Joliet

¡Hagamos discípulos para Jesús!

Descargue y lea la nueva carta pastoral del Obispo Hicks, **MAKE**, para descubrir cómo usted y sus seres queridos pueden vivir como discípulos y ayudar a hacer otros discípulos en su comunidad.



MAKE.diojoli.org



MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People
of the Diocese of Joliet

Dedication of Lateran Basilica**Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22.**

Today's Gospel passage is called the "Cleansing of the Temple." This Gospel passage reminds us Jesus' zealous authority over the Temple and the re-definition of the Temple.

Jesus arrives at the Temple during Passover and finds the outer court—the *Court of the Gentiles*, intended for prayer and worship by all people—turned into a marketplace. The exchange of money and the selling of sacrificial animals, while necessary, had become a system of profiteering and exploitation that overshadowed the true purpose of the house of God.

Jesus' reaction is one of righteous anger or zeal. In this context the disciples remember from Psalm 69:9: "Zeal for your house will consume me." This is not a fit of rage, but a passionate commitment to the holiness of God and a profound objection to the exploitation of the poor and the obstruction of true worship. Jesus' actions challenge the established religious and economic systems of the day. They had become complacent and corrupt, prioritizing profit over piety.

The Jewish authorities challenge Jesus' authority, demanding a sign to justify his actions. Jesus' response is enigmatic: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19).

The religious leaders think he is talking about the physical Temple, which took decades to build. However, the evangelist John immediately clarifies that "he was speaking about the temple of his body" (John 2:21). With this statement, Jesus declares that he himself is the true dwelling place of God's presence. He is the new, perfect Temple. After his death and resurrection, God's presence and the means of atonement would no longer be confined to a building in Jerusa-

lem, but would be found in Christ himself.

The disciples do not grasp the full meaning of Jesus' words in the moment. It is only after the resurrection that they understand. "After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken." Remembrance leads to understanding and understanding leads to Belief. The resurrection is the key that unlocks the true meaning of both the Scriptures and Jesus' own words.

This teaches us that faith is often a process. Sometimes, we hear a truth of God that we don't fully comprehend until we look at this from a new perspective (like the resurrection). It encourages us to hold onto God's promises even when they seem confusing or impossible, trusting that their meaning will be revealed in time. We need to examine ourselves in the light, which is Jesus himself, and we need cleanse within ourselves those that are to be cleansed. In our spiritual life ulterior motives can creep in even without our own knowledge. With a true spirit of humility, we can identify them and with the help of God and through the sacrament of penance and Eucharist we can eliminate from us.

This would change our approach to prayer, and service. We need to bury our pride and hold on to the virtue of humility. We need to delve deep into our spiritual life and deepen our relationship with Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

Father Thomas will have **OFFICE HOURS** on Tuesday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am / Wednesday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am / Thursday from 5—6pm / Friday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am or by appointment.



Mark & Carleen Polacek	November 9, 1986	39 years
Tim & Cindy Reed	November 14, 1981	44 years
David & MJ Szewka	November 23, 1985	40 years
Austin & Kristen Jester	November 23, 2024	1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

On the second weekend of each month, Fr. Thomas will offer a **special blessing** to couples celebrating an anniversary in that month. Couples who want to participate will be asked to stand at the end of Mass for the blessing.

If you would like your names and anniversary date **printed in the bulletin**, you need to register in the **registration book in the lobby**. Couples who register will also receive an anniversary card.

COLLECTION SUMMARY: November 1—2, 2025

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,584.00
Plus	\$ 378.47
Envelopes used / distributed	71/ 531
*Includes 7 Online Givers	
Providing for Our Future	\$ 50.00
All Saints	\$ 396.00
All Souls	\$ 623.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 25.00

Secure and convenient
ONLINE GIVING is
available at

GiveCentral.org.

Please put in zip code **60468** to find the St. Paul portal. A credit card or bank account can be linked.



Next week our special collection will support the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. Nearly 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd. Week of the Collection Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. **In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects.** Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd.

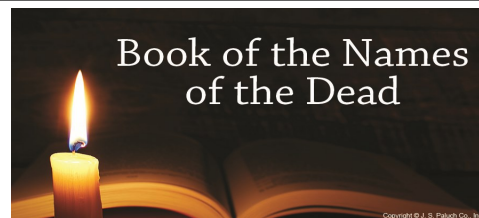
Laura Jacques, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan, Deacon Mark Otten, Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Karen Haave, Dorothy Simikowski, Joe Ladislav, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomo, Julie Szudarski, Sharon Andrews, Sue Gomez, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Ray Romito, Francesca Librera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Librera, the Adamsick Family, Cassidy Novak, Lavergne Sigrist, Charlie Kooy, Rita Hall, Rose Bailey, Julie Hayes, Emily Klamkin, Lorianne Mihelic, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica and those that go unnamed.



Please note that only names given with permission of the person or by a family member will be added to the list.

During the month of November, our "**Book of Remembrance**" will be in the rear of the

church near the Holy Family for anyone who would like to write the names of loved ones who have died. Those who are included in this book will be included in a general petition offered at Masses during the month of November.



TRAINING for current and prospective **ALTAR SERVERS** will be held this Saturday, November 15 at 9am. Training is open to anyone who has received their First Communion.



Join us for Veteran's Day fellowship and to celebrate Fr. Thomas' birthday!

Please mark your calendar for this **Tuesday, November 11** following 8:30am Mass for coffee and breakfast casserole, apple french toast casserole, breakfast muffins and carrot birthday cake.



The St. Paul Council of Catholic Women invites you to join them in the **50th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** for the **FRANCISCAN SISTERS** of the **SACRED HEART** living at St. Francis Woods (Frankfort) on **Tuesday, December 9 from 1-3PM.**

If you have any questions, please call or text Clem at 708 710-1831.

*Please try to join us--
the good sisters love company!*

Bingo Prize Suggestions:

- *Candy all kinds – especially chocolate (there are three sisters who are diabetic)
- *Snacks--individually packaged
- *Small plants--Christmas ones are very popular:
Christmas cactus, pine tree, holly
- *Stamps
- *Lotion
- *Hot chocolate--individual packages
- *Starbucks bottled coffee
- *Christmas decorations (not religious), wall hangings, wreaths, ornaments
- *Many of the sisters wear street clothes, Holiday socks, jewelry (no earrings)

Some bingo prizes are "re-gifted" by the sisters to their friends / family.

Each sister has her own room and bathroom

- *Decorative towels
- *Decorative pillows
- *Holiday soaps
- *Decorative soft soap dispensers
- *Adult coloring books



We would like to give each of the 29 sisters and 1 priest a \$20 gift card from any of the following stores: **Walgreens, Walmart, Dollar Tree**

Gift cards can be placed in the boxes at each of the entrances to the church. Checks should be made out to the CCW with a note in the subject line "sister's Christmas party."

Bingo prizes can be placed in the boxes near the two church entrances.

There are sign-up sheets for **cookie donations** and for those **who would join us** for this much appreciated and fun afternoon.

The CCW "**BUNDLE UP**" collection will conclude next week-end November 15/16.

Join us as we try to fill our "**Bundle Up**" basket with new mittens, scarves and stocking hats, sizes for children as well as adult to be donated to Catholic Charities. The cold weather is approaching fast. Help us to keep someone warm this year!



Ladies, it's **CCW Christmas Bunco** party time!

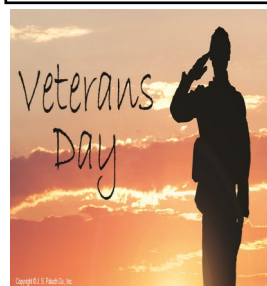
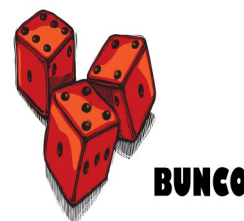
A favorite fun-filled event!

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, December 2.**

We will play bunco, have a lot of laughs and enjoy each others' company!

A sign-up sheet will be available next weekend.

We look forward to seeing you and having a fun-filled evening!



**WELCOME and
THANK-YOU,
VETERANS!**

Lord God,
Almighty Father,
creator of mankind
and author of
peace, as we are

ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless all veterans and the current members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

VOCATIONS OFFICE

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

How to Support Your Priests

Parishioners can encourage the priesthood by praying daily for vocations and for priests, by encouraging men they know to consider the priesthood, and by actively supporting the church's vocation ministry. Encouraging a priestly vocation includes recognizing spiritual commitment, such as regular participation in prayer and spiritual events, and speaking to potential candidates to offer support and invite them to explore the possibility of a vocation. A supportive community that fosters openness to God's call is crucial for men and women to discern and respond to a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

The Configuration and Vocational Synthesis

BY FR. STEVEN BORELLO
DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS
DIOCESE OF JOLIET

The final 4 years of seminary bring a shift in focus. More confident in his identity as a disciple of Jesus, the man enters the Configuration Stage and begins the formal study of theology. Here, his humanity is more intentionally shaped so as to mirror Christ the Shepherd. He studies Scripture, doctrine, moral theology, liturgy, and pastoral theology with an eye toward preaching, celebrating the sacraments, and shepherding souls. The man regularly spends his weekends assisting at liturgy, engaged in parish ministries,

and functions in a ministerial capacity.

In the fall of his final year of seminary, the man is ordained as a transitional deacon and enters the Vocational Synthesis Stage. At this point, he has completed his academic training and will now live and serve full-time in a parish. This year is truly a "synthesis" because everything converges here: prayer, study, service, community life, and ministry, demonstrating that the seminarian has become a man of integration, freedom, and priestly witness who is ready to step forward into priesthood.

These final stages are not

just about learning what a priest does, but about becoming who a priest is. Through study, service, and the grace of the sacraments, the man is configured more fully to Christ the High Priest, ready to lay down his life for God's people.



This is Part 3 in a 3-part series of columns on the importance of your help in the formation of new priests

ABOUT FATHER BORELLO

Fr. Steven Borello is a priest of the Diocese of Joliet currently serving as the Director of Vocations.

Fr. Steven grew up in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and is the oldest of 4 children.

He attended the University

of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where he studied chemistry and chemical engineering.

While there, he received a call to the seminary to discern the priesthood.

He received his Bachelors in Theology and Masters of Divinity from Mundelein Seminary

and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Joliet in 2011.

He first served as an associate pastor at Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills and was then transferred to Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Naperville in June of 2014.

In August of 2015, he began

serving at St. John Vianney College Seminary as a spiritual director, director of human formation, and instructor to over 120 men discerning a priestly vocation.

He returned to the Diocese of Joliet in August 2018 to begin as the Director of Vocations.



Diocese of Joliet

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND



Please respond generously to our second collection for **Seminarian Formation**.

This weekend, our parish is taking up a second collection for **Seminarian Education**. Your gifts will support the formation of seminarians preparing to serve as our parish priests.

The Diocese of Joliet currently has been blessed with 27 men discerning vocations to the priesthood through seminary formation. Gifts to the second collection are being invested in an endowed fund to ensure the diocese can balance the cost of seminarian education — \$53,900 a seminarian per year — with other ministries essential to the Church's mission.

Please show your gratitude for those who have answered the Lord's call and prayerfully reflect on how you can best help support their formation with a gift. You may place your completed second collection envelope in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office.



Bishop Hicks' Column
November 2025



"I Have Loved You" — A Gift from the Holy Father

The wait is over! After just five months of being elected, [Pope Leo XIV](#) has speedily penned and shared with us his first [Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi Te* \("I Have Loved You"\)](#). It radiates the heart of Jesus and reminds us that love for Christ and love for the poor are inseparable. The Holy Father teaches that when we draw close to those who are weak, forgotten, or struggling, we meet Christ himself. It is not only an invitation to charity; it is a call to conversion.

In last month's column, I invited everyone to read my pastoral letter [MAKE!](#) which lays out our diocesan vision for evangelization. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to take some quiet time to read and pray with it, and now to also read *Dilexi Te*. These two letters, the Holy Father's and ours, speak to one another with one voice: a call to be a Church that listens, serves, and brings the love of Christ into action.

Some may think this theme of love for the poor is simply a continuation of Pope Francis and something that only Francis and Leo share in common. However, Pope Leo shows in a scholarly and deeply pastoral way that love for the poor has always been at the very heart of the Church. Throughout *Dilexi Te* he grounds this teaching in Scripture from the Old and New Testaments and draws upon the wisdom of [the Early Church Fathers](#), the lives of the saints, and the witness of countless religious orders and popular movements. He even highlights how [Saint John Paul II](#) and [Pope Benedict XVI](#) carried forward this same conviction in their own teaching. Far from being a new idea, Pope Leo reminds us that this is part of the Church's unbroken tradition, one that the world urgently needs to hear again today.

Reading *Dilexi Te* moved me deeply. It reminded me that when we share life with the poor, they evangelize us. During my years serving in El Salvador at a [home for orphaned and abandoned children](#), I remember when a donation allowed us

to buy doughnuts for all 525 children. We ran out before the adult staff could have any, including me. Then a little boy approached and offered me two thirds of his doughnut. I said, "That's generous, but give me one third and keep two thirds." He replied, "No, Padre, you're bigger and probably hungrier, you get more." That small act of love preached the Gospel better than any homily.

I was struck by Pope Leo's reminder that poverty is not only material. There is also a spiritual poverty, an emptiness and isolation that affects many, especially in our own country. He warns that this kind of poverty can be even more dangerous because it hides behind comfort or distraction. This insight challenges us to see the poor not only as those who lack food or shelter but also as those who hunger for meaning, mercy, and belonging. Our call is to reach both kinds of poverty with the same love of Christ.

Not long ago, I visited a parish food pantry where volunteers gathered to pray before they served. It was not simply about groceries; it was catechesis, evangelization, and faith in action all at once. One volunteer said, "Bishop, we try to do more than give out donations. We are trying to share God's love and see the face of Christ in everyone we serve." That is *Dilexi Te* come to life. When love meets action, we encounter Christ, and transformation happens.

May *Dilexi Te* be a roadmap for a Church that truly believes what it proclaims: that Christ's love is most visible when we serve, listen, and walk with the poor. In every act of mercy and every parish outreach, may we turn faith into action and reveal the love that Pope Leo describes so powerfully. And may we, as disciples here in the Diocese of Joliet, make that love visible in our words, our witness, and our works every single day.