



THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

March 17, 2024
St. Patrick/5th Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners:

Last month, I published a video discussing the situation in the Diocese of Steubenville. I would like to re-emphasize that message here today.

In the brief time I have been here, *I have grown to love the generous, faithful people here in the Diocese of Steubenville.* I am so honored to be your bishop. Even during this time of uncertainty, as our Diocese is being examined to determine our future viability as an independent Local Church, *our priests and people continue to focus our primary attention on our Faith lives and advancing the mission of the Church.*

Though the Holy Father has asked me to be here “temporarily” until that determination has been made, I have been assured many times that there is no foregone conclusion to this process. That means that *we must continue to maintain the strength and vitality* of our Diocese to the absolute best of our ability.

One of the most distressing “low points” of our recent history had to do with serious financial mismanagement, which brought a halt to the Cathedral Renovation project, and which has resulted, understandably, in a loss of trust and respect by many within the Body of Christ in our Diocese. *I truly apologize, in the name of the Church, for the hurt, pain, and sense of betrayal you experienced because of that sinful and illegal activity.*

I want to assure you that the problems with financial mismanagement have been corrected, and that the proper “checks and balances” have been put into place to ensure that this never happens again. Furthermore, new efforts at financial transparency have been implemented as evidenced by the complete financial audits being published on the diocesan website for everyone’s review. (Visit www.diosteub.org and click on “Diocesan Financial Audits”).

As we go through this “discernment period” in our Diocese’s history and are uncertain what the outcome of that process will be, there may very well be a mindset among many of our people to not support the DPSC; to wait and see, or to donate your charitable support elsewhere. However, *if that takes place, wouldn’t that contribute to the classic “self-fulfilling prophecy,” giving evidence that our Diocese is unable to sustain itself financially?*

I take this occasion to ask you to do just the opposite. I ask you to *show your support*--both financially and prayerfully--and to be *actively engaged* in the practice of your Faith! I ask this of you primarily because it is essential for each of our spiritual lives to do so, but also because it will give actual and tangible evidence that our Diocese is a strong and vibrant Local Church--spiritually, temporally, and charitably--one that can continue to thrive and faithfully further the mission of the Church, the Body of Christ that is truly One, by proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we do, and to all those we serve in His Name.

The DPSC provides essential funding for our diocesan budget. *Please keep in mind that all funds received through the DPSC are donor restricted and will remain in the diocese of Steubenville to serve our Local Church.*

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother, continue to intercede for all of us, and inspire us all to do what she asks of each of us: to love her Son Jesus and His Holy Church.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Apostolic Administrator of Steubenville

POST OFFICE BOX 969, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO 43952-5969 • (740) 282-3631