



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

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January 24, 2025

Memorial of St. Francis de Sales

Principal Patron of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his October 2004 apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine*, Pope St. John Paul II wrote: “[B]y our mutual love and, in particular, by our concern for those in need we will be recognized as true followers of Christ (cf. Jn. 13:35; Mt. 25:31-46). This will be the criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations is judged” (28). With these words, the Holy Father underscored the divine connection between the Body and Blood of Christ that we freely receive and what we do as a result.

Like two sides of the same coin, there is an inseparable relationship for our path to salvation between God’s gift of the Eucharist and our willingness to selflessly give of ourselves to others. To believe in a God that is love is also to assent that “each of us is truly called, together with Jesus, to be bread broken for the life of the world,” especially for the most vulnerable among us (Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 88).

The Catholic Church in the United States has embarked upon the third and final stage of our Eucharistic Revival: the Year of Mission. After having so joyfully and publicly welcomed the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to the archdiocese last year, we now remind ourselves of the mission to be Christ for others. The world needs us to shine as examples of God’s love and compassion. The unborn, mothers in need, immigrants, homeless, and so many other vulnerable people long for us to see them with the eyes of Jesus, who has a special place for the poor in His heart.

In the context of Beacons of Light, the Eucharistic Revival’s Year of Mission is well-expressed through the Love in Action principle. This principle encompasses our parish ministries of charity and social justice that organize our time, treasure and talents to respect human life from conception until natural death, serve those in need, welcome migrants, advocate for a more just and peaceful world, promote solidarity through global missions, create spaces of belonging for those with disabilities and care for God’s creation.

The Eucharist is also a source of unity. In these relentlessly polarized times, our Love in Action ministries present a unique and prophetic witness to how we as Catholics overcome ideological, racial and social differences to advance the life and dignity of everyone. Likewise, the Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission is a welcomed opportunity for us to remind ourselves and

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our communities of how powerfully this Sacrament motivates us to see all people as beloved members of one human family.

It is also fitting that the universal Church is celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. Motivated by the Eucharist to put our love into action in a divided and violent world, we all need a limitless source of hope. In his Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee, Pope Francis assures us that our Christian faith offers us in all circumstances hope in God, a hope that does not fade. “May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require,” the Holy Father prays, “in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 25).

Therefore, for this Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission during the Jubilee Year of Hope, I encourage all Families of Parishes, schools and other Catholic entities in the archdiocese to put a special emphasis on advancing Love in Action over the next five months. More details regarding ways to do this are available through the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Social Action at <https://catholicaoc.org/yearofmission>. We will conclude the Eucharistic Revival’s Year of Mission with a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on the Feast of the Ascension, Sunday, June 1, 2025, to which all of you are invited.

Thank you for all you do to be ever transformed by the Body of Christ to put God’s love into action. By doing so, you are a pilgrim of hope for the local Church and all the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis M. Schnurr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning of the first name.

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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