



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

Office of the Bishop

424 N. BROADWAY | WICHITA, KANSAS 67202

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to introduce you to our stewardship theme of the year, *Empowered: Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples*. Each year we prayerfully introduce a new stewardship theme to stir up a freshness of mind and heart as we respond anew to the stewardship way of life.

On May 1, 2019, I began my sixth year as your bishop. It has been a great blessing for me to shepherd this wonderful diocese and to work with Fr. Ken VanHaverbeke as the Director of the Stewardship Office. During the past five years I have been praying, listening and discerning so as to better serve the great legacy of stewardship in our diocese.

I truly believe that the stewardship way of life is at an important crossroads in our diocese. It has become ever more challenging to keep up the momentum of this sacrificial way of living parish life, especially during these very difficult times in the Catholic Church. Accordingly, part of my pastoral plan for the Diocese of Wichita is the renewal of the stewardship way of life. I believe that this renewal will in time come about from committing to one word in our definition of stewardship: *Disciple*. Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian *disciple* . . . In order to press forward in the work of making disciples, I have assigned Fr. John Jirak to take on the role of Vicar for Evangelization, Discipleship and Stewardship. He will work with Fr. Jose Machado and Audrey Ronnfeldt to accompany parishes in the work of evangelization, discipleship and stewardship. I am grateful to them for enthusiastically carrying this message to all in our diocese and helping us all to embrace a deeper discipleship so that we can become even better stewards.

I pray that our vision, *Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples*, will bring about the much-desired renewal of the stewardship way of life in our Diocese. This year's theme focuses on the action of the Holy Spirit. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Apostles were told by Jesus to go to Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was at this time that they were *Empowered* by the Holy Spirit to go out and witness to Christ to the ends of the earth. We, too, seek this *Empowerment* for a new spring time of stewardship. As Pope Francis states, "The Spirit is the wind pushing us forward, keeping us going that makes us feel like pilgrims and foreigners and doesn't allow us to get comfortable and become sedentary."

Please know of my prayers for all in our blessed and beloved diocese as we go forward, empowered by the action of the Holy Spirit, to evangelize our culture and to form missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. I am

Humbly Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Carl A. Kemme, D.D.
Bishop of Wichita

"Put your gifts at the service of one another." 1 Peter 4:10