



DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL

Prot. No. VG 02/23

January 13, 2023

Dear Fathers, parish and diocesan staff, principals, and 50th anniversary volunteers,

Now that we have concluded our yearlong 50th anniversary celebrations across our diocese, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support and creative efforts to make this past year a memorable milestone.

Our anniversary year was an ideal time to recall our history and reflect upon our divine mission. If you have not already done so, please watch and share our feature video, “History of the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C.” at FaithMorePreciousThanGold.com. I hope you will find it to be, as I did, a well-made documentary that nicely illustrates how we arrived where we are today. Additionally, Rev. W. Becket Soule, O.P., pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Maggie Valley, published a research book, *A Documentary History of the Diocese of Charlotte, 1972-2022*, available at Lulu.com/shop. The Chancery purchased a gift copy for all active and retired priests. Those priests who attended the Bishop’s Advent Dinner have already received their copy; we will distribute the others at the Chrism Mass this Lent.

In addition to the history video and book, the diocese-wide “50 Acts of Charity” initiative was a highlight of our celebration, as parishes, schools and ministries reached out in love to their neighbors. You donated blood and collected food, diapers, toiletries, cleaning, and school supplies. Volunteers repaired church and community facilities, including a playground, women’s shelter, and prayer garden. Diocesan Pastoral Center employees also partnered with Roof Above, Charlotte’s homeless services agency, to repaint the living quarters of an apartment complex for men in substance abuse treatment. Especially heartwarming was seeing the works of charity performed by our diocesan Catholic Schools, with every school community living up to a “Golden Pledge” to perform at least 50 Acts of Charity during the year.

Families also enjoyed faith and fellowship during a concert at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, Catholic Family Day at Carowinds, and Catholic Night at a Knights baseball game. Parishes and schools also organized local events and featured the “Faith More Precious Than Gold” theme in celebrations such as church dedication anniversaries, annual festivals and picnics, and school projects.

A hallmark of the anniversary that bound us together was the pilgrimage of the specially commissioned Mary, Mother of God statue, which traveled to more than 100 parishes, missions, schools, and major events across the diocese. It was heartening to see Our Lady so lovingly honored and venerated by the faithful. I pray this devotion shown to our Blessed Mother will strengthen our

1123 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, NC 28203-4003

PHONE: (704) 370-3326 FAX: (704) 370-3379 EMAIL: CHANCERY@CHARLOTTEDIocese.ORG

WWW.CHARLOTTEDIocese.ORG

filial bonds and increase the favor she bestows upon us. As Bishop Jugis announced on Thursday, at the closing Mass of our anniversary celebration, the Holy See has formally confirmed and proclaimed Mary, Mother of God as Patroness of the Diocese of Charlotte. Please join me today in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for Our Lady's maternal care for our diocese over the last 50 years, and commending our future to her loving protection.

Again, on behalf of Bishop Jugis and myself, thank you to everyone who helped make this past year a blessing for our diocese. May the peace and love of Jesus Christ and the ceaseless intercession of Mary, Mother of God remain with you all.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Msgr. Patrick J. Winslow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. Winslow, J.C.L.
Vicar General and Chancellor