



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

1210 Locust Street | St. Louis, MO 63103 | 314-231-1220 | diocesemo.org

Office of the Bishop

April 24, 2024

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Our world is stressed. We hear of war, and rumors of wars, we experience the devastating effects of a changing climate, and we lament the divisions that have become all too common in our neighborhoods and communities. Navigating this current climate is challenging. It is easy to feel lost, helpless, and afraid.

My grandmother in her deep wisdom, during times of crisis and distress, would often say, "I may not know what the future holds, but I know who hold the future." We walk by faith into a future where God is already present, active, and working.

In this season of resurrection, we are reminded that even in the chaos and confusion the still small voice of God calls us to remembrance. Remember you are a precious child of God, remember that you are beloved by God, remember that God's love shines through you.

Each one of us bears witness to resurrection when we stand up for those who have no voice, those who have been silenced, those who have been accounted as nothing. We bear witness to resurrection when we seek to be repairers of the breach and healers of the nations. We bear witness to resurrection when we support the aspirations and dreams of our children and plant seeds for a different tomorrow.

As we journey towards a future that is held by God, I invite you to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal by joining me in supporting the work of healing from oppression and racial division, shepherding and shaping the ministry of children and youth, and by standing up with those who are unhoused and underserved.

Your gift to this year's Bishop's Appeal will be shared among these ministries:

- **The Chester Hines Racial Reconciliation Fund**
Building an endowment fund to repair racial injustice in our communities.
- **The Camp Phoenix Scholarship Fund**
Giving all youth the opportunity to explore the story and love of Jesus Christ.
- **The JustFood Truck**
Serving food in areas of high poverty throughout our diocese.



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Our world is transformed, not by great feats strength but by small acts of love. Join me in standing on the side of love by sharing from our abundance for the transformation of one person at a time in Christ's name.

Thank you for your generosity and for the many ways you live and share the Good News of God. You are a vital part of God's vision for the world and I am grateful to be a companion as we walk towards God's abundant future. I love to tell our story!

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson,
Bishop of Missouri