



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 2022

My dear friends in Christ,

Over the past couple of years, the pandemic has magnified the importance of communication. Whether it was announcing the obligation to return to Mass, reporting on our first March for Life in Springfield, updating people on life issues at the Statehouse, highlighting the gifts and talents of our clergy and lay faithful, and sharing incredible stories about people in our diocese, *Catholic Times* has consistently been in people's mailboxes and inboxes to provide the hope, inspiration, and education they need during these uncertain times.

Over the past year, *Catholic Times* has continued its emphasis on catechesis of the Catholic faith such as their Hey, Father! series, a special edition dedicated to the sacrament of confession, and a comprehensive look at what eternity looks like and why we must strive for sainthood. Feature reporting is also a major part of the magazine highlighting the stories of people, parishes, and schools that are building up the Kingdom of God in our diocese. The magazine's commitment to local coverage means when it is opened, readers will see stories that are important to their lives.

In the past year, the magazine refreshed its look, which included increasing the font size slightly. Father Dominic Rankin also launched a new series that promotes and inspires people about the vocation of marriage.

My column, "Lex Cordis Caritas," is on page 4 of each issue. It is one of the best ways that I can speak about the issues that we face as Catholics in Central Illinois and update readers on important decisions I make that impact the faithful. As bishop of this diocese, it is important for me to be an active participant in Catholic media.

It is all these reasons why I believe that *Catholic Times* should be available to every household in our diocese, either online (ct.dio.org), by email, or by mail. I invite you to support this important communication tool in our diocese. During the weekend of Jan. 8-9, you will have the opportunity to respond gratefully and ensure the *Catholic Times* remains an inexpensive source of information on the vital issues I have noted.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois
Publisher, *Catholic Times*