



Office of the Bishop

March 6, 2019
Ash Wednesday

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin the holy season of Lent today on this Ash Wednesday, I proclaim a Holy Year of Renewal as a special time for our local Church, the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The purpose of this Holy Year will allow us to prepare together to respond to the Holy Spirit's inspirations to pursue the priorities and goals in our Mutually Shared Vision to be *One Family: Restored in Christ—Equipped for Mission*. The Holy Year begins today at the beginning of Lent, a season of renewal marked by prayer, sacrifice and works of mercy. It is a time when we intentionally align our minds and our wills with our Lord. I ask that we all do so together, and this year, with the added desire to renew our homes, our parishes, and our diocese with the Mutually Shared Vision as both a road map and rallying cry in our commitments in achieving for the next few years.

The Holy Year will conclude next January 12, 2020, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This date was chosen so that we might all intentionally respond in a renewed way to the baptismal call we each received to be “priest, prophet and king” and to embrace our call to serve and grow God’s Kingdom on earth, healing and building up our family, the Church.

The Holy Year will also be marked by moments and events which will allow us to reflect on each of the priorities in our Vision. I ask you individually, as families, and as parish communities, to prayerfully reflect on our ambitious plans, indeed to make them your own, and allow God to bless us all.

May God’s grace and peace be with you in this Holy Year ahead!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph

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