



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIocese OF BRIDGEPORT

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October, 2023

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I ask your prayerful participation in the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Along with the Diocese of Norwich, our diocese was erected by Pope Pius XII on August 6, 1953.

The anniversary is a pivotal moment to give thanks for all the graces we have received over 70 years, as well as celebrate “The One” core mission that unites the Church and all of the faithful; the work of fostering encounters with Christ and accompanying each other in discipleship.

We will observe the 70th Anniversary celebration with Masses of Thanksgiving in two major ways:

- All parish Saturday evening/Sunday Masses on the weekend of October 21/22 will celebrate a special votive to observe this spiritual milestone of the 70th Anniversary of the Diocese, and to give all the opportunity to join in prayerful commemoration. This votive Mass will replace the celebration of the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Please check your Parish Bulletin or visit your parish website for times and details: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/mass-times/>)
- Joined by priests throughout the diocese, I will celebrate the Diocesan Anniversary Mass on Saturday October 21, 11:00 am at Saint August Cathedral. As part of the observance, I will re-consecrate the Diocese to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, followed by the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The re-consecration will also be celebrated at all parish Masses.

Since we wish to gather as a Diocesan family on such an important day, and mindful that the seating capacity at the Cathedral is limited, tickets have been allocated to representatives from all parishes, schools, affiliated agencies, ecclesial movements, and faith communities to join in the celebration. Every attempt has been made to be inclusive as we plan to convene as one family in faith. For all the people of the Diocese, the Mass will be live-streamed at: <https://www.thecathedralparish.org>.

At the end of 2021, when we were still in the clutches of Covid -19, and living with great uncertainty, I invited all the people of the Diocese to spiritually gather in the “Upper Room” to affirm our faith and prepare to go out in mission. It was in the Upper Room that the apostles, who were initially overwhelmed by fear and doubt, received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They left the Upper Room with a burning passion to preach the *kerygma*; the message of salvation that comes to us through Jesus Christ—and to all who are willing to listen.

Now, after much prayer and preparation, it is my hope that the 70th Anniversary serves as the call to all of believers to proclaim “The One” single invitation offered by Christ to encounter Him more deeply in mind, heart and will, and to be accompanied in our journey of faith.

Let us take the time to remember and pray for all those who have come before us in faith—our parents, grandparents, families, and in a special way our priests, deacons and religious. They truly are the living stones of the Church. Our tasks are no less than theirs; to answer the invitation to accept Christ, live in his fullness, and pass the faith on to the next generation.

Let us pray that by all we do together in the coming years to celebrate Christ in our lives, the accumulated effects of our work will renew our church by fostering faith communities where every person who is baptized can come to deeply know the Lord and enter missionary discipleship for a lifetime.

Please know that all of the people of the diocese will be remembered in my prayers during this joyful observance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport