

# “Zeal for thy house consumes me.”

Psalm 69:10



## The 2018 Bishop's Appeal

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Feb. 1, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I reflect on the growth of the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter over last year, I recall the words of Psalm 69: “Zeal for thy house consumes me.”

During the past 12 months, our mission diocese established new communities in Kentucky, Georgia, and Southern California. We launched intensive formation programs for more than 20 candidates studying for the diaconate and priesthood. We received two new seminarians, and I ordained the Ordinariate's first celibate seminarian a priest. The photo above is from the consecration of Mount Calvary Church in Baltimore — one of two churches consecrated as Catholic churches last year.

We hosted “Discernment Days” for 13 young men considering a call to holy orders. We welcomed women religious into the Ordinariate, when the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist began formal ministries within our diocese. Our priests and deacons gathered for prayer, fraternity, and business during a week-long assembly in Los Angeles.

These examples of seemingly inextinguishable activity give witness to the remarkable zeal of the Ordinariate's faithful and clergy. Zeal indeed consumes us, as we work hard to strengthen our communities, provide solid formation for our future priests, and bolster the structural and administrative foundation for our diocese to support our Parishes and clergy into the future.

“Zeal for thy house consumes me” is the theme of our 2018 Bishop's Appeal, through which we can carry forth our enthusiasm for inviting new members into full Catholic communion; for cultivating more vocations to the priesthood and religious life; for growing our Parishes; and for further integrating our Ordinariate into the life of the Catholic Church.

To meet the needs of the Ordinariate today and for generations to come, I invite you to join me in making a gift to the annual Bishop's Appeal. **Support for this mission-critical fund remains the lifeblood of our evangelization to our brothers and sisters who long for the fullness of faith.** Your gift will provide for education opportunities for your clergy, communications outreach across the Ordinariate, Chancery support to your Parishes, and my travel to preach and teach the faith.

As we prepare for the holy season of Lent, I thank you for your prayerful consideration of a sacrificial commitment to this year's Bishop's Appeal. With my profound appreciation for your zeal for our pioneering mission, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes  
Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter