



THE DIOCESE OF
HARRISBURG

Campaign

FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Diocese of Harrisburg

FOR OVER 150 YEARS, THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG HAS SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGHOUT CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

Anchored in the Apostles' tradition, strengthened by the sacraments, and led by the Holy Spirit, we have developed into a lively community of faith.



201,000+
Souls



15
Counties



88
Parishes



6
Mission Churches



90
Diocesan Priests



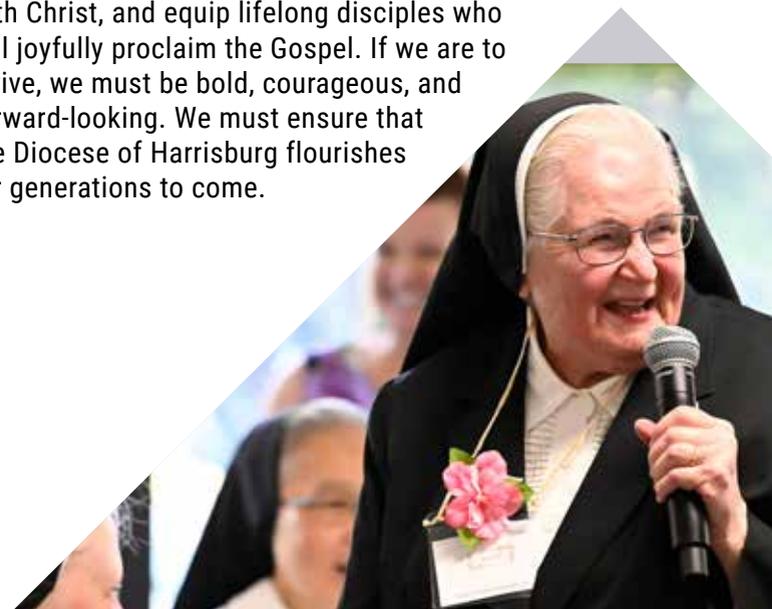
32
Catholic Schools

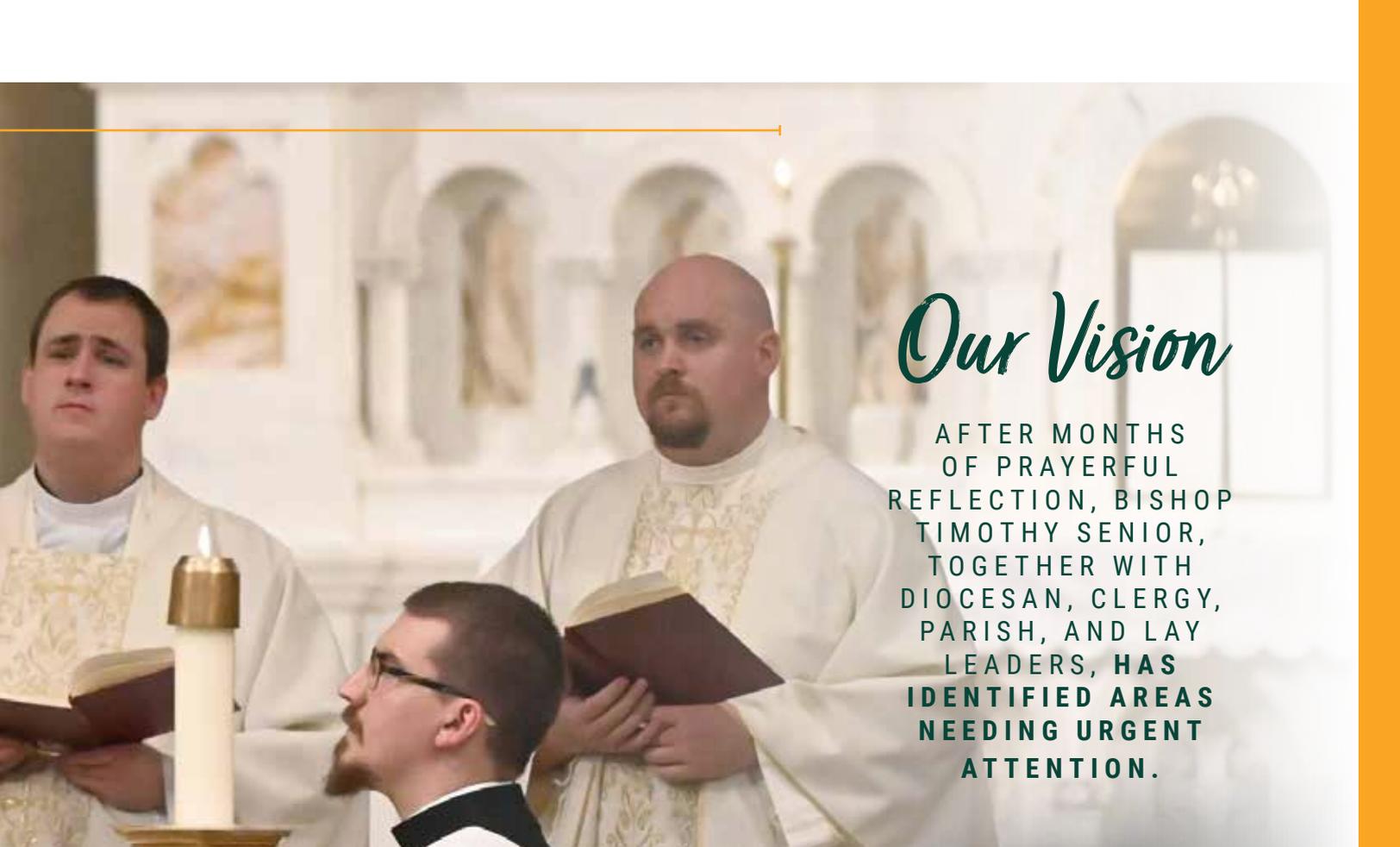


STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND APOSTOLIC MISSION

The Diocese of Harrisburg – our entire country, in fact – is at a pivotal moment. Our culture is shifting rapidly; families are drifting away from Mass and the sacraments, and fewer young people see the Church as essential to their lives. At the same time, our priests are aging, our Catholic schools need more tools and resources, and the least among us need more help than we can give.

We cannot be satisfied with maintaining the status quo – we must do even more to ignite hearts, invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, and equip lifelong disciples who will joyfully proclaim the Gospel. If we are to thrive, we must be bold, courageous, and forward-looking. We must ensure that the Diocese of Harrisburg flourishes for generations to come.





Our Vision

AFTER MONTHS OF PRAYERFUL REFLECTION, BISHOP TIMOTHY SENIOR, TOGETHER WITH DIOCESAN, CLERGY, PARISH, AND LAY LEADERS, HAS IDENTIFIED AREAS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION.

We are considering a diocesan-wide campaign aimed at addressing immediate needs and strengthening funding for our ministries for the years ahead.

OUR VISION IS BOLD BUT CLEAR:

- » **Ignite faith formation and evangelization** so that every Catholic is welcomed, formed, and sent as a missionary disciple
- » **Strengthen Catholic education** by supporting teachers, innovating curriculum, and ensuring families can access our schools
- » **Invest in vocations**, forming the next generation of priests and deacons to shepherd our parishes
- » **Bolster Catholic Charities** so the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized experience the compassionate love of Christ
- » **Complete the restoration of our Cathedral**, the mother church of our diocese, as a cornerstone of faith for decades to come
- » **Provide care** for our aging and sick priests
- » **Enhance services provided by the diocese**, which benefit all our parishes, schools, and ministries
- » **Support parish priorities**, recognizing that discipleship is lived most deeply in local communities of faith



By enhancing what we already excel at, we can plant the seeds that will shift us from maintenance to fulfilling our mission, confident that the Spirit is leading us into a new chapter of faith.



Our Priorities

FAITH FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

▶ *\$6.25 Million to Ignite Hearts and Transform Lives*

We must give every person the opportunity to have Christ in their life, build a relationship with Him, and experience the joy that comes from living by faith. We need to more effectively assist parishes in finding new ways to bring hearts to Christ—reaching out to those who are struggling to feel connected to Him and seeking a greater purpose in life. We desire to support parishes in forming parishioners to be missionary disciples who will inspire hope in Catholics of all ages, from youth and young adults to long-time believers. We want to:

- ▶ **Expand the FOCUS missionary discipleship program.** Bring this program to two additional state-run universities in the diocese, creating vibrant faith communities for young adults. The short-term need is \$500,000 to launch programs and staff outreach; our long-term goal is a \$2 million endowment to ensure lasting presence and impact.
- ▶ **Empower grassroots evangelization efforts in parishes.** Inspired by the “Called by Name” program, which involves parishes forming teams to promote vocations, we will similarly assist parishes in mobilizing parish teams of volunteers, staff, and clergy to lead local evangelization efforts. Deanery-level coordination will amplify reach and share leadership across communities. We estimate we will need \$250,000 over five years to provide training and materials for parish staff and volunteers.
- ▶ **Engage with and support our expanding multicultural ministry programs.** The Church in Harrisburg is experiencing growing ethnic and cultural diversity, especially Hispanic and Asian Catholics, a trend also happening nationwide. Assisting parishes in reaching out to these communities is essential to help them stay connected to their Catholic faith and grow spiritually. Hiring clergy and religious who are native speakers of Spanish and Vietnamese is key to broadening this outreach. An endowment of \$2 million is proposed to provide annual support of \$125,000 to \$250,000 for new religious orders.
- ▶ **Create a \$2 million general-purpose endowment for the office of Catholic Life and Evangelization (CLEV).** Currently, the Diocesan Annual Campaign (DAC) funds are CLEV’s main source of funding. Establishing an endowment will lessen reliance on the DAC, enabling more strategic planning with the assurance of sustainable and recurring funds.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

▶ *\$10 Million to Heal Souls and Strengthen Families*

Our local Catholic Charities serves as the human services branch of the diocese, sharing Christ's love with those in greatest need. In today's rapidly changing political and social environment, our needs are growing and becoming more urgent. We also aim to raise awareness, build trust, and involve communities by sharing the transformative, pro-life, and pro-family work in our local neighborhoods.

By combining an immediate cash infusion for urgent needs with an endowment fund, we aim to enhance our current programs, enable quicker responses to disasters, crises, and unforeseen needs, and secure years of funding for multiple new initiatives despite fluctuations in government support. These include:

- » **Establishing mobile health outreach across the diocese.** Launch a fleet of mobile service units equipped to deliver professional mental health care directly to underserved communities within the diocese. These units will offer counseling, crisis intervention, and referrals, ensuring that individuals in remote or resource-limited areas have consistent access to emotional and psychological support. The initiative aims to reduce stigma, improve mental wellness, and bridge gaps in care by meeting people where they are.
- » **Building community-embedded food pantries for immediate relief.** Develop and maintain strategically located food pantries that operate directly within neighborhoods experiencing food insecurity. These "in the field" pantries will be stocked with nutritious staples and fresh produce and designed for easy walk-up or drive-through access. By removing transportation barriers and embedding resources within the community, this program will provide immediate relief and foster long-term food stability.
- » **Providing emergency assistance to prevent homelessness and job loss.** Create a robust support system that provides financial aid for essential living expenses, including rent, utilities, car payments, and more, to prevent individuals and families from falling into homelessness or unemployment due to sudden financial hardship. This program will be structured to respond quickly to urgent needs, with a focus on preserving housing, transportation, and dignity during crises. Other referrals would be handled via a case management process to direct those in need to community and diocesan resources.
- » **Transforming unused facilities into supportive housing.** Conduct a thorough inventory of vacant or underutilized buildings within the diocese to evaluate their potential for conversion into permanent or transitional supportive housing. This process will include mapping areas of greatest need, assessing structural viability, and developing renovation plans tailored to housing vulnerable populations. The funds raised with this campaign could serve as a catalyst, providing seed funding to jumpstart adaptive reuse projects that offer safe, stable shelter and wraparound services.

VOCATIONS

▶ *\$5.5 Million to Invest in Tomorrow's Priests*

The Catholic Church in the United States faces a pressing need for more priests. While the Catholic population is steady, a substantial number of priests are approaching retirement – and the rate of ordination has not kept pace. In our diocese, nearly 30% of our priests are over 60 years old. Anticipating many retirements in the next 10-15 years, we have an estimated need of six new seminarians per year (double our current average number of incoming seminarians) to ensure that we have enough new priests to serve our parishes and people. We want to:

- » **Expand Vocational Discernment Initiatives (\$2.5 Million)**
 - » **Enhance the "Called by Name" parish initiative and Project Andrew dinners.** Increase outreach to parish communities by expanding the "Called by Name" initiative, which invites parishioners to nominate men who may be called to the priesthood. These nominees are then welcomed to Project Andrew Dinners—intimate gatherings with the Bishop and clergy that offer space for reflection, conversation, and encouragement in discerning a vocation.
 - » **Equip lay parish volunteers as vocational ambassadors.** Provide training and resources to lay volunteers who will help identify potential candidates, offer mentorship, and foster a culture of discernment within their parish communities.
 - » **Grow the Quo Vadis Program for youth ages 15–25.** Expand this proven program that introduces young men to the concept of a vocation through retreats, mentorship, and spiritual formation. Quo Vadis has been instrumental in nurturing early interest in the priesthood and building a foundation for lifelong discernment.
 - » **Host weekend discernment retreats at the seminary.** Launch a series of immersive weekend retreats at the seminary, designed to go beyond the Quo Vadis experience. These retreats will offer deeper spiritual engagement, personal reflection, and direct interaction with seminarians and clergy, inviting young men to seriously consider God's call.
- » **Grow the St. John Vianney Fund for Seminarian Education** to meet the increasing number of aspiring priests. We plan to expand the St. John Vianney Fund significantly. Each \$1 million invested allows us to fully support one seminarian through eight years of formation. With annual costs averaging \$65,000 per seminarian—including tuition, room and board, books, evaluations, and pastoral experiences—this fund ensures that the cost of education does not become a barrier for those discerning a vocation.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

► \$10 Million to Inspire Disciples and Build the Future

Our diocese has 32 Catholic schools serving over 9,000 children, guided by 1,000 devoted teachers and staff. In our schools, children receive more than an excellent academic education. They are formed into future Church leaders, strong Catholic disciples, and compassionate adults. Our schools also face undeniable realities: financial pressures on parishes, aging facilities, rising costs, and a need for continual innovation. We want to:

- » **Restore and strengthen school facilities.** Address significant maintenance and repair issues at many schools, which create financial and operational pressures that hinder their ability to provide a safe, inspiring environment and fully deliver on their mission. Expanding an existing endowment to support infrastructure and safety measures is one way to help schools with limited resources.
- » **Expand financial aid to meet increasing demand.** Each year, families request over \$11 million in tuition assistance, but we can only meet less than half of those needs. By growing the Neumann Scholarship Foundation and increasing other revenue sources (such as restricted endowments for schools or additional current use dollars for financial aid, which respond to funding requests from schools that are growing quickly and/or lack the infrastructure to raise money), we can ensure that more children have access to a Catholic education, regardless of their financial circumstances.
- » **Unlock EITC and grant opportunities.** A \$200,000 annual investment will fund outreach, training, and support to help communities further maximize these opportunities and reduce tuition burdens.
- » **Invest in educators and leadership.** Our teachers and staff are the backbone of our schools. To retain and empower them, we must invest in their growth and formation. A \$250,000 annual investment will support professional development, leadership training, and scholarships for principal preparation, ensuring strong, faith-filled leadership for years to come.
- » **Enrich curriculum and faith formation.** We are committed to delivering a dynamic, faith-integrated education that prepares students for life and discipleship. This includes implementing ongoing curriculum updates across theology, STEM, and the arts, integrating faith into every subject and expanding family-based faith formation to strengthen the home-school-parish connection.



PARISH INITIATIVES

► 30% of Funds Raised to Strengthen Our Local Communities

Each parish has unique needs that it can address to better serve its people and the wider community. If the diocese proceeds with a campaign, 30% of the funds raised by individual parishes will be returned to them to support local projects and initiatives they choose. These might include facility upgrades, accessibility improvements, and expanded ministry programs, among others.



CATHEDRAL RENOVATIONS

► *\$10 Million to Pursue Greater Glory at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick*

The Cathedral of Saint Patrick is our mother church, a place where the faithful from across the diocese can gather and unite as one. Built in 1907, the building is a grand structure and a symbol of our faith. As we approach the bicentennial of the parish, we are called to honor its legacy and ensure the beauty and hospitality of this sacred space for future generations.

The parish has joyfully begun fundraising for a transformative series of improvements—and we have received an extraordinary gift: an organ. This significant instrument will elevate our liturgies and replace our aging, patchwork organ. Thanks be to God! We want to:

- » **Install the new organ.** Carefully extricate, transport, and reinstall this organ, and expand the choir loft to accommodate its grandeur—bringing new life to our worship and music ministry.
- » **Renovate the Parish Hall.** Revitalize the lower level of the parish hall, including a much-needed expansion of the inaccessible restrooms, ensuring hospitality and dignity for all who gather.
- » **Restore the sacred interior.** Complete ongoing interior restorations, refresh the sacristy, replace worn furnishings, and lovingly restore our historic pews—preserving beauty and reverence for generations to come.
- » **Upgrade climate control.** Replace the aging A/C system to ensure year-round comfort and protect the integrity of our historic building.
- » **Enhance sound and technology.** Modernize our audio and communication systems to improve clarity, accessibility, and engagement during liturgies and events.
- » **Illuminate our faith.** Refurbish the exterior dome and cupola lighting, allowing our church to continue to shine as a beacon of faith and hope over the city.



CARE FOR PRIESTS

► *\$10 Million to Tend to Sick and Retired Priests*

As a Church, we are committed to every stage of life, and we acknowledge that vocation doesn't end with age or health decline. Our priests dedicate their lives to spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and community service for the faithful in our diocese. Supporting them in retirement or during illness is a way to give back for their years of devotion. We seek to:

- » **Establish a permanently restricted endowment fund dedicated to sustaining the Priest's Retirement Residence in Harrisburg.** This residence, a place of peace and dignity for our retired clergy, must remain safe, clean, and accessible for those who have devoted their lives to spiritual service. Though the facility is currently in good condition, ongoing maintenance is essential to preserve its integrity and comfort. The annual interest and dividends from this fund will ensure that our priests—who have shepherded generations—continue to receive the care and respect they deserve in their later years.
- » **Secure funding to expand vital support for our aging priests.** As the number of retired clergy continues to grow, so too does the need for supplemental care — including assisted living services both within the Priest's Retirement Residence and in parish rectories. These men have spent their lives in service to others; now, their ability to remain in familiar, faith-centered environments depends on the level of care we can offer. With expanded resources, we can ensure that every retired priest receives the dignity, comfort, and support he deserves — wherever he calls home.



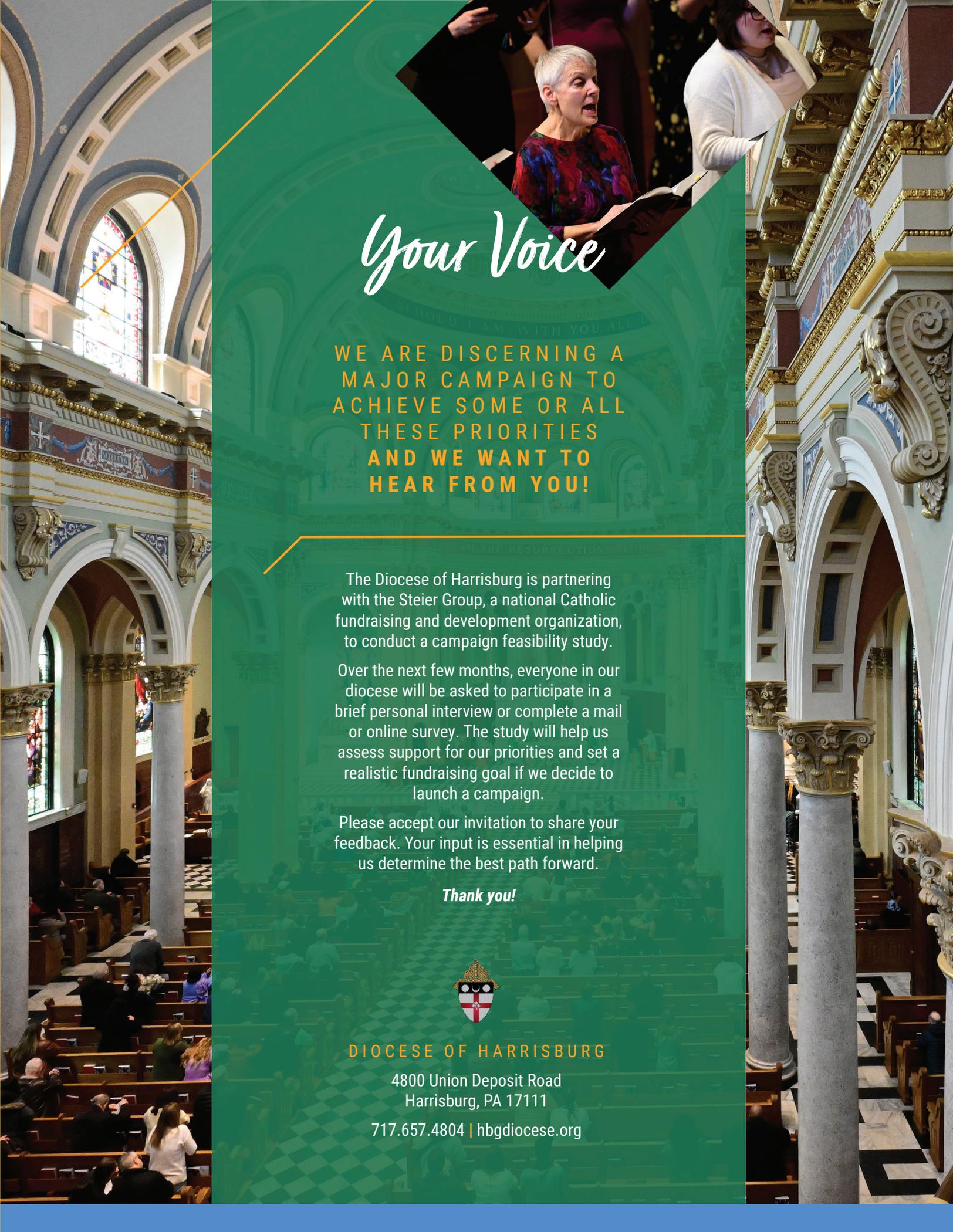
DIOCESAN INFRASTRUCTURE

► *\$5 Million to Invest in Services for Parishes*

The diocese delivers exceptional and unparalleled support to 88 parishes, 6 missions, and 32 schools across our 15-county region — at little or no cost to those we serve. This vital assistance strengthens our faith communities, enhances education, and sustains parish life. To preserve and grow this level of service, we must invest in the infrastructure and resources that enable it. We aspire to:

- » **Enhance diocesan communications** by investing in modern tools that reach the faithful across print and digital platforms.
- » **Upgrade technology at our conference center** to deliver a high-quality experience for presenters and attendees, fostering connection and learning.
- » **Modernize systems and processes** through strategic technology investments that strengthen the operations of our parishes, schools, and ministry programs.





Your Voice

WE ARE DISCERNING A
MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO
ACHIEVE SOME OR ALL
THESE PRIORITIES
AND WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU!

The Diocese of Harrisburg is partnering with the Steier Group, a national Catholic fundraising and development organization, to conduct a campaign feasibility study.

Over the next few months, everyone in our diocese will be asked to participate in a brief personal interview or complete a mail or online survey. The study will help us assess support for our priorities and set a realistic fundraising goal if we decide to launch a campaign.

Please accept our invitation to share your feedback. Your input is essential in helping us determine the best path forward.

Thank you!



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

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