



MEMORANDUM

TO: Priests, Pastoral Coordinators, Deacons and Women Religious

FROM: The Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL + *J.F.D.*

DATE: March 12, 2018

RE: **Bishop's Partners in Service-Save the Date May 20, 2018**

Please mark your calendars for May 20, 2018 for the annual Mass and celebration at St. Peter Cathedral to honor our Bishop's Partners in Service (BPS).

2:30 PM Eastern Optional opportunity for private veneration of the Baraga stole
3:30 PM Eastern Mass
Reception with light refreshments to follow in the parish hall

Individual invitations will be sent from the diocese to all BPS members by April 20th. Pastors and Pastoral Coordinators will soon be emailed a list from the diocese of BPS members from your parish. Please encourage them to attend the May 20th event. *Attached is an optional sample letter for pastors to send their parish BPS members to encourage attendance and build community.*

As Spirit-filled evangelizers, you are encouraged to additionally invite a few parishioners who are not on your parish BPS list, but are none-the-less good stewards of the Church, to join you in this celebration. This will give you an opportunity for fellowship and to strengthen bonds with those who exemplify stewardship at your parish. **Please be sure to RSVP for yourself, as well as those not on the BPS list who have accepted your personal invitation to attend.**

Bishop's Partners in Service is an annual call to stewardship that encourages annual giving to the U.P. Catholic Services Appeal at 1% of each family's annual household income. It is based on making gifts that are not equal in size, but equal in personal sacrifice. Membership is automatic with pledge amounts of \$500 or more, or when the parishioner indicates on their pledge card that they are giving at the 1% level.

It is my hope that many of you will attend this joyous event and join me in thanksgiving to these loyal and generous stewards of our Church. The Mass will be an occasion for me to deepen people's understanding of our mission and extend grateful hospitality. For you, it is an opportunity to engage these members in a pilgrimage to the Cathedral parish, meet others, and grow in faith. Members of the Diocesan Curia will be on hand to welcome you and your parishioners. We look forward to seeing you there.