



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This past November, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, the people of our Diocese were consecrated to the Heart of Christ. In the primary sense, consecration means to make sacred and to dedicate to God. Every baptized Christian by virtue of the Sacrament is consecrated to God, thereby belonging to Him as an adopted yet real son or daughter and called to follow God's only-begotten Son Jesus Christ. Through the symbol of His heart, Jesus reveals to us the tremendous depth of divine love, a love that is merciful and redemptive; a love that transforms our hearts to be more like His. Through our prayer of consecration in November, we renewed that original baptismal consecration with a deeper and more personal awareness of Jesus' love for each one of us and with a stronger commitment to unite ourselves more completely to His Sacred Heart in all we are and do.

Yes, each of us is called to live a holy life as a follower of Christ. This is something we must never tire of pursuing. The more we understand and accept the fullness of love and mercy which Jesus gives to us through His Heart, the more His divine love fills our own hearts. Therefore, I chose the theme, "***Love One Another with the Heart of Christ***" for the 2012 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA), because the BLA ministries and programs bring the love and compassion of Christ to all those they serve. We are able to be the Heart of Christ to others through our presence, through our prayers, and through our financial gifts that provide tangible services to benefit others.

The BLA offers us the opportunity to share in critically important programs and ministries of our diocese: support for vocations and retired priests, Catholic education and faith formation, Catholic Charities, multicultural ministries, evangelization initiatives, respect life programs and many others. Your gift in support of these vital initiatives, each meeting needs much larger than one parish alone can provide, helps make the love in the Heart of Christ Jesus present to all in an immediate and powerful way. In this respect, Jesus' love and care for His people becomes visible through us.

As we continue to recall the momentous occasion of our Diocesan consecration, it is my hope-filled prayer that you are seeking to make your heart more like our Lord's and that you will give prayerful consideration to joining in support of the 2012 BLA. I humbly recognize that every gift constitutes a sacrifice, an offering made with gratitude. Please be assured that the gifts which you are able to offer are deeply appreciated.

Together, let us pray that through our deepening devotion to the Heart of Christ, we will develop a love like His, and share that love with all whom we encounter. Then, we can truly "***Love One Another with the Heart of Christ.***"

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Loverde". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde  
Bishop of Arlington

**Bishop's Lenten Appeal + Catholic Diocese of Arlington**  
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