

A Reflection

from Bishop Hicks



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is no denying the importance of light to humanity. It brings comfort, warmth and growth. It leads us from darkness. It guides our journey.

Of course, as Christian stewards, we recognize that Christ is the true “light of the world” (Jn 8:12), and equally important to those corporal, tangible benefits are the countless spiritual ones His special light provides. Each and every day, I am grateful to Him for lighting my path, especially as I begin my ministry here in the Diocese of Joliet.

But what becomes of Christ’s light? Do we keep it for ourselves?

One cannot help but consider the servant in the Parable of the Talents, who buried his master’s bag of gold instead of increasing its yield and was subsequently thrown out into the darkness. Christ’s disciples are called to magnify His light, which is why we chose *Shining the Light of Christ* as the theme for the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA).

Our annual appeal supports 30 ministries that shine Christ’s light throughout the diocese, especially on those most in need. In this opening report, you can read how your gifts to the CMAA help the poor and vulnerable, form our future shepherds, and spread the faith through our Catholic schools, faith formation programs in parishes and programs for young adults.

I also invite you to visit the pages of our website and learn more about how our annual appeal allows us, together, to do our part in building God’s kingdom here on earth.

Please prayerfully consider joining me in supporting the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal and shining Christ’s light brightly in our diocese.

Peace,
Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet