

December 2, 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During the *Year of Faith* announced by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, which began on October 11, 2012 and will end on November 24, 2013, a *Year of Faith* “at the service of belief and evangelization” (Porta fidei, n.12) on this First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year, we as a Diocesan Church inaugurate our diocesan **Pastoral Plan**, three years in the making, which will accompany us as we live out and give expression to our faith in the company of the Lord Jesus, sharing the mission which he has entrusted to us. We pray that this opportunity and time of grace “will contribute to the rediscovery and renewal of and witness to the great gift of Faith.” (CDF)

It is with great pleasure that today, I inaugurate the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Saint John which will inspire and guide our pastoral activities for the next five years. With a grateful heart, I thank all those who participated in the consultation and shared their faith as well as their hopes and dreams for our diocesan church. My gratitude is extended to the members of the Visioning Committee for their time and effort. It is my heartfelt hope that what has already been accomplished, as well as everything we will do to implement the Plan, will contribute to the revitalization of our diocesan church. We are currently in the process of designing a new Diocesan Website and hope to have it completed in January. You will be able to download a version of the Pastoral Plan at that time. In the meantime, to have a download of your own personal copy of the Pastoral Plan, please contact your parish or tribunal@dioceseofsaintjohn.org. The subject line should read Pastoral Plan.

May our prayer, as well as our openness, patience, mutual respect and loyalty, benefit the process upon which we have embarked, enabling our local church to become “a dwelling place for God in the Spirit” which radiates Christ to the world in which we live.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Robert Harris
Bishop of Saint John