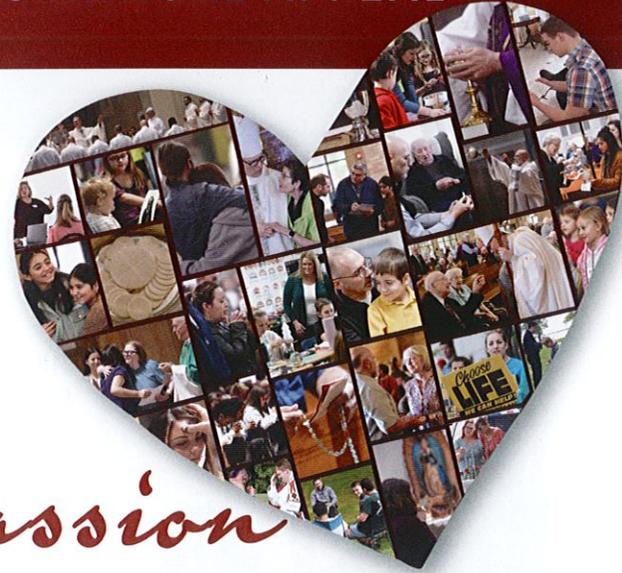
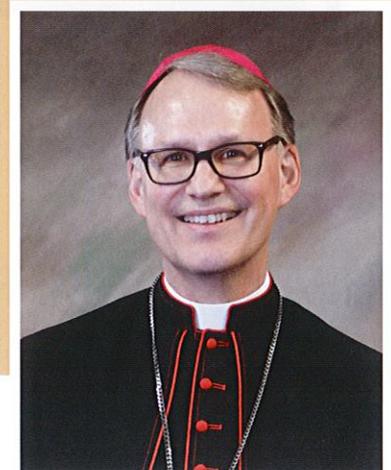


Hearts of MERCY Agents of Compassion



In every parish, in every pew, in every ministry across our diocese, the call of Christ is the same: to be agents of compassion, to walk with one another in accompaniment and to open our hearts in mercy. This year, the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal invites us to see formation not as a program, but as a way of life – shaping disciples who reflect the love of Jesus in all they do.

Ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal seek to ignite faith by serving more than 125,000 Catholics across the Diocese of Saint Cloud.



+PATRICK M. NEARY, C.S.C.
Diocese of Saint Cloud

HEARTS OF MERCY...

FORMING PASTORAL LEADERS.



"Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." – Mark 16:15

Pastoral leaders dedicate themselves to equipping parishes, schools and ministries with the tools they need to grow in faith. From catechist training to youth ministry support to adult faith formation, they are agents of compassion – ensuring that leaders are prepared to accompany the faithful with wisdom and mercy.

Sara Michaelson, diocesan superintendent of schools, walks alongside principals through accreditation as well as the daily joys and challenges of school leadership. Pictured with Kristie Harren, principal of Sacred Heart School in Freeport, Sara regularly visits educators in Catholic schools across the diocese to offer guidance, encouragement and support.