



Dear Friend,

During the last year and a half, amidst the pandemic, I have wholeheartedly embraced the challenge of serving as the Sixth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown. Covid has affected us all in many ways and has had a profound impact on families.

For ten years prior to the pandemic, the Diocese of Youngstown has held an annual Faith & Family Festival, gathering families from around Northeast Ohio for a day of faith, fellowship, fun, food and fulfillment. Although covid concerns necessitated cancelling the Faith & Family Festivals in 2020 and 2021, we believe that 2022 will see the return of the event in full vigor.

I hope you will join me on Sunday, September 25 for the Eleventh Faith & Family Festival on the beautiful campus of Walsh University in North Canton. I will preside at the opening Mass at 11:00 a.m. Fr. Leo Patalinghug of Plating Grace – affectionately known as the “cooking priest” – will be the featured presenter. The day will include music, prayer, exhibitors, affordable food and an assortment of games and activities for children, youth and families.

I think you will agree that after the last couple of years families deserve a break. I believe that the Faith & Family Festival will offer such an opportunity, and we will again present the event to all for free. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of the many donors, sponsors and volunteers who make it all possible.

This September will be my first opportunity to experience the Faith & Family Festival and I look forward to it with great anticipation. Family has meant so much to me. It is God who gives us our family; it is his gift. I look forward to celebrating the gift of family with you on September 25 at Walsh University.

United by our Heavenly Father in one human family, let us pray “that all may be one.”

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown