

DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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September 21, 2022

To the Catholic Community in Arkansas,

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church is a small, thriving parish of around 62 families in Magnolia, about halfway between Texarkana and El Dorado in the southern part of our diocese. They are also the faith community for Catholic college students at Southern Arkansas University. Their pastor Fr. Michael Johns is also responsible for the pastoral care of St. Louis Church in Camden.

I hope Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Magnolia becomes as well known to everyone in our diocese as it is to me because, over the next 12 months, their parish will be supported by One Church, our diocesan initiative to give a one-time financial boost to a mission parish to help them complete a project they cannot finish on their own.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church has an inadequate parish center that needs to be upgraded and expanded. They have modest plans to enlarge it to serve their ministry needs, which include additional meeting space, offices and classrooms, new restrooms and improvements to their kitchen.

This is our diocese's fifth year helping a parish through One Church. In the past, you have been generous in supporting St. Luke Church in Warren, Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg, St. Bartholomew Church in Little Rock, and St. Andrew Church in Danville. Now Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Magnolia needs our help to realize its dream of larger facilities for its ministries.

Through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, let us pray that all of us in our diocese – sisters and brothers in Christ – will come together as One Church to provide the much-needed one-time boost for this parish that bears her holy name.

Sincerely in Christ,

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+Anthony/B. Taylor Bishop of Little Rock