



January 30, 2011

My Dear Friends in Christ:

Since my return to Detroit as your Archbishop two years ago, I have talked with hundreds of priests and parishioners across southeast Michigan.

Beyond the many prayers and expressions of support that I have received, I am humbled by the candor and sincerity with which you have expressed your thoughts, and the trust you have extended to me as your shepherd in faith.

The mission of the Archdiocese of Detroit is “To Share Christ in and Through the Church”. One of the ways that we share Christ with each other is by speaking the truth in love to one another. I have pledged to be honest and transparent with you regarding the challenges and opportunities that we face together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have received many questions and expressions of concern about some of the past practices regarding the Archdiocese of Detroit’s financial condition, the well-being of our parishes and other institutions, and our plans for the future. To address our past and present challenges, I am initiating a series of communications to share the facts and engage in discussion as a family of faith.

In the weeks ahead and at regular intervals thereafter, I will update you on a series of subjects through your parish bulletin, the Archdiocesan website [www.aodonline.org/SharingtheLight](http://www.aodonline.org/SharingtheLight), and in *The Michigan Catholic*. I hope that you will receive this information in the spirit in which it is intended, as a way of sharing Christ with each other.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Allen H. Vigneron  
Archbishop of Detroit