



*100 East Eighth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202*

*July 27, 2025*

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*Although I am unable to be with you in person today, I join you in spirit and in prayer.*

*In the wake of the recent fire at St. John the Baptist Church, we are reminded of the extraordinary strength of the human spirit that is clearly evident in the men and women who came to our community's aid. I am deeply grateful for their service, both in battling the flames and in the recovery that has followed.*

*Though the damage to our church building grieves us, our Church—the people, the Body of Christ—is alive and resilient. Part of that strength comes from knowing we are not alone. We are sustained not only by our faith in God, but we are also upheld by the support of the wider community: both our civic partners and our Catholic neighbors.*

*To our firefighters, police officers, and all first responders: thank you. Your bravery and dedication helped save more than just walls, you helped preserve sacred items housed in this church, items that speak to generations of faithful Catholics who have called this parish home.*

*Today, in a special way, we give thanks for the first responders who came to our aid. We pray for your safety in every call you answer. May God continue to bless your work, protect your lives, and give you strength.*

*And I give thanks to God for the gift of this community. May God bless all who sustain it through prayer and sacrificial love. Please know that you remain in my heart and in my prayers.*

*In Christ,*

*+ Robert G. Casey*

*Most Reverend Robert G. Casey  
Archbishop of Cincinnati*