



Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Office of the Bishop

11 North "B" Street
Pensacola, Florida 32502
Office: (850) 435-3520
Fax: (850) 435-3565
Email: bishop@ptdiocese.org

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." With those two short sentences, Jesus reminds us all of our Baptismal calling. It is important that we remember that these two brief sentences occur in Holy Scripture just after the Lord has taught us the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit ... Blessed are those who hunger ... Blessed are the merciful."

The Sunday, February 5th Gospel reading is a small part of Jesus' longest oration in all of Holy Scripture — His Sermon on the Mount. In so many ways, this Sermon is a stewardship presentation. If we just focus on the two pieces of advice the Lord gives in the four verses of Sunday's Gospel, we go a long way to both understanding and achieving intentional discipleship. **If we bring meaning and enhancement to the lives of those around us (salt), and if we provide love and joy to them (light), we will have gone a long way to fulfilling what Jesus has exemplified that we must do to grow in our faith.** We will indeed have responded to Him as He wished — as disciples and stewards.

Shakespeare even understood this thought as he wrote in the Merchant of Venice, "How far that little candle throws his beams. So shines a good deed in a weary world!" In the CSA brochure, you will see just some of the numerous ways our diocese supports parishes, and all their ministries who work diligently to "Share The Gift" with all our neighbors, our brothers and sisters.

I know the significant impact we make when we are all working together to fulfill the mission of the Church; and with that confidence, I ask you to reflect in your heart, consider your blessings, and to consider making a gift to CSA this year. Please indicate on the enclosed pledge card the level of your gift and drop it in the offertory or mail it directly to the Pastoral Center. The Lord is counting on all of us to mirror His kindness, fidelity and mercy to our brothers and sisters.

May the Holy Spirit guide you as we spread hope and salvation throughout our Diocese in the name of Christ Jesus. Thank you again for all that you do, and please know that I keep you and your loved ones in my daily prayers.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee