



EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE  
of Southern Virginia

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November 8, 2022

Greetings in the Name of the Lord,

We are on the move in the Diocese of Southern Virginia! Throughout our community, we are seeing the fruits of our faithful ministry over these past pandemic years. We are experiencing that internal stirring that tells us that God is at work in new ways. As I travel around the diocese, the anxiety of an unknown and upended future is giving way to a renewed sense of call to build disciples and a deeper compassion for a world longing for our message of hope.

Our five initiatives\* are increasingly shaping our common life and providing the framework for diocesan programs. For example, our Diocesan Church Development Institute offers every congregation tools to build leadership capacity. Repairers of the Breach have developed a superb anti-racism training program and hosted a day at Chanco to introduce the Matoaka Covenant. Indeed, our initiatives are driving spiritual renewal in too many ways to list.

And, while all these diocesan activities take place, I have the privilege of traveling around the diocese getting to know so many faithful followers of Jesus, and learning about the breadth, creativity, and courage that characterize parish life here. I regularly find myself after returning home from a visitation or concluding open office hours or after some other engagement filled with gratitude beyond words.

As we return from our Thanksgiving holidays and prepare to celebrate the Incarnation, I hope you feel that deep sense of gratitude for our shared life and ministry as well. Even—or perhaps especially—in the face of the turbulence and trauma so prevalent around us, God's grace transforms. God's love assures. God's justice prevails. And we can but give God thanks and praise.

In this spirit of gratitude and renewal, we have great things in store for 2023. Most importantly, our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, will be with us on April 22 for a glorious revival. To prepare for this momentous occasion, we will offer related programs and host gatherings throughout the diocese that will culminate in our revival celebration. I hope every member of the diocese makes plans to participate.

It is also in the spirit of gratitude and renewal that I ask for your annual financial pledge to support our shared diocesan life. Parishes do not function in a vacuum, and we need your robust financial giving to provide for both canonically and constitutionally required support. Your giving makes possible the programs that build up and empower parish life throughout the

diocese. Just as our parishes can only thrive with solid giving from members, our diocese only thrives with that same solid giving from each and every congregation, commensurate with resources.

Included with this letter and on our website, you will find your diocesan pledge form. Please complete it as you express your own thanksgiving and hope for God's mission that we all share in the diocese.

I thank you for your leadership and friendship as we look forward to an exciting year continuing on our journey of faith.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan B. Haynes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "H".

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

\*You can find the text of our Five Initiatives on our website:

<http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2279/FiveInitiatives.pdf>



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## 2023 Pledge Commitment

Our 2021 Pledge & Plate was \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(page 4, line 3 on 2021 Parochial Report)

Ten percent of our Pledge & Plate is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Our 2023 pledge is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Our pledge will be paid in (Check One):

\_\_\_\_\_ 12 monthly installments

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 quarterly installments

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 annual installment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Warden

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*“so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another”*

Return this form by **December 1, 2022**, by mail to the Diocese of Southern Virginia,  
11832 Rock Landing Drive., Suite 100, Newport News, VA 23606, or by email to  
jjobson@diosova.org.