Dear Sisters and Brothers,

March 1, 2021

Peace and wellbeing to all of you and your families. With his Apostolic Letter Patris Corde, on December 8, 2020, Pope Francis commemorated the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX’s declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by proclaiming a Year of Saint Joseph. The Holy Father encourages us to increase our love for this great saint, to implore his intercession, and to imitate his virtues and fervor.

Pope Francis recognized that the pandemic has underlined the family’s central role as the Domestic Church and the importance of family relationships with other families for care and support. Such relationships make the Church an authentic “family of families” (Amoris Laetitia #87). He affirms that the family should be placed at the center of commitment and attention from every pastoral and ecclesial reality. The Church will also celebrate the Amoris Laetitia family this year, marking five years since the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia’s publication on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The Holy Father has invited us to join him in reaching every family through spiritual, pastoral, and cultural proposals that can be implemented within our diocese.

The Year of Saint Joseph and Amoris Laetitia Family are aligned with our diocesan vision to impact family, neighborhood, and society with the Gospel so that people’s lives are filled with hope. My hope is that this year we take an active role in promoting prayer and devotion to Saint Joseph in order to better imitate his many Christian values; that families, large or small, will grow in wisdom and holiness; and that fathers be leaders of prayer, morality, and spiritual formation in their homes.

One way to embark on this Holy Year in our diocese is to promote and participate in the Solemnity of Saint Joseph Family Mass, which will take place March 19, 2020, at 7 PM, at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral. Mass will be in-person & live-streamed. There are many other initiatives that the diocesan offices are planning for this year. To learn more about the Year of Saint Joseph in our diocese, please visit the diocesan website.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support of this special year in honor of Saint Joseph. Active promotion of this year’s events to families and parishioners will not only foster devotion to Saint Joseph but more importantly help form missionary disciples and vocations from within our families, schools, ministries, and parishes.

May the Son of God and Son of Saint Joseph watch over and protect you throughout this special year of Saint Joseph. My blessing and prayers are with you all.

Yours in Christ’s Love and peace,

Most Reverend Alberto Rojas, DD