



MOST REVEREND JOSEPH R. KOPACZ, D.D., PH.D.
CATHOLIC DIOCESE of JACKSON

August 11, 2014

Rev. Msgr. Ted Bertagni
Director of Clergy and Diocesan Relations
Cross Catholic Outreach
P.O. Box 273908
Boca Raton, FL 33427-3908

Dear Msgr. Bertagni,

I am writing as a follow-up to my visit with Fr. Bernard Olszewski on June 26 here at the chancery office in Jackson, MS. We had the opportunity to speak about our love for the Northeastern section of the country, and the common ground where we have lived or passed through. Much more importantly we discussed the ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach in partnership with Cor Unum to the poorest of the poor in our world.

I was ordained and installed as the 11th Bishop of Jackson, MS this past February 6, and I am only beginning to learn about the rich legacy of faith and outreach throughout the Deep South. I know that some of our regional bishops have been very active in the work of Cross Catholic Outreach, and in certain areas of our region your outreach has been a blessing, in particular in more recent times on behalf of those whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Although we are a mission diocese covering 80% of the State of Mississippi, we are also known as one of the most generous Catholic dioceses in the United States. Many of our people have a strong mission spirit and understand the importance of going out of oneself to encounter the poor, and to assist them with their time, talent, and treasure. We are simpatico with your mission in life. Many of our parishes are not very large, but if you want to extend your ministry into our diocese there are a cluster of parishes that would respond generously through their faithful parishioners.

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless your indispensable outreach to some of the most vulnerable in our world. Let us faithfully remember one another in prayer.

In God's justice and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph R. Kopacz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Joseph R. Kopacz
Bishop of Jackson

JRK/kb