



May 4, 2021

OFFICE of the BISHOP

Reverend Monsignor Ted Bertagni  
Director of Clergy and Diocesan Relations  
Cross Catholic Outreath  
2700 N. Military Trail, Suite 300  
Boca Raton, FL 33431


Dear Monsignor Bertagni:

It was good to receive your letter about Cross Catholic Outreach and to know of your connection to the Conventual Franciscan Friars who served at my home parish in Ames for many years. How blessed we were by their ministry there!

I am pleased to write in support of the efforts of Cross Catholic Outreach to serve the poor and powerless throughout the world. That work has been a tremendous support to the priests, sisters and lay people who, under the guidance of the local bishop, are providing for the material and spiritual needs of our impoverished brothers and sisters. That ministry has, undoubtedly, been severely challenged as areas throughout the world have been confronted with the impact of COVID-19 in the past year. Be assured of my prayerful support of all of your efforts.

The observance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cross Catholic Outreach is cause for celebration and gratitude. May your mission be abundantly blessed as you continue the rich tradition of support for all of God's people especially those in greatest need. I trust that you will continue to share the message of this work with parishes throughout our country and challenge all of us to be generous as we reach out to our sisters and brothers in need around the world.

Faithfully in Christ,



Most Reverend William M. Joensen, Ph.D.  
Bishop of Des Moines