



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 5, 2022

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

Dear Monsignor Bertagni,

I enjoyed meeting with you earlier this week and learning more about Cross Catholic Outreach and its solidarity with the poor.

As Catholics, we are blessed that Pope Francis continually reminds us to remember the poor. In today's society, so many people have an excessive attachment to material goods but true wealth does not consist of storing up "treasures on earth" but in reciprocal love that leads us to bear one another's burdens.

As the Holy Father wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "none of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice." He reminds us that when we have a sincere and generous concern for the poor in our hearts, it makes us approach a poor person as a brother or sister.

It is only then we can answer the call to not just help the poor, but accompany them, becoming part of their lives so that we share not only our blessings with them, but ourselves. For when we do so, we discover the poor have much to share with us, through their simplicity of life and total reliance on God. The goal is to transform structures that create the poor.

As Christians, let us always make charity, faith and hope the basis of our lives in action. For your mission to the poor, I am pleased to endorse Cross Catholic Outreach.

Let us keep each other in prayer and remember the many blessings God has bestowed upon us including serving others.

In Christ's Love,

+ Jacques Fabre-Jeune

Most Reverend Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston