The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas
5100 Ross Avenue • Dallas, Texas 75206
Telephone 214-826-8310 • www.edod.org
The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, VIII Bishop

Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ. Since becoming your Bishop in January, I have spoken to our Executive Council and the college of clergy about the central project of my episcopate: the Leadership Development Pipeline, the goal of which is to foster the growth of *flourishing clergy in flourishing congregations*. At our upcoming Diocesan Convention I'll be speaking in more detail about my vision for our Diocese and the initiatives that I'll be working on to make that vision a reality. However, I have two specific efforts that I am announcing now that support the strategic goal of "*Encouraging, Equipping, and Caring for Current Leaders*."

The first initiative is designed to truly move the needle in the level of trust and collegiality amongst the clergy of our Diocese, and to enrich the preaching and deepen the spiritual lives of our clergy for years to come (thus benefitting our congregations). A sum of $150,000 has been raised to help me bring up to 40 clergy on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the early spring of 2028. Participating clergy will be expected to pay $3,500 for a ten-day journey to the place of Jesus' earthly ministry, which reflects one-half the cost of the trip. Of course, this assumes that conditions on the ground are safe for our travel there, but I hope that this early announcement gives clergy who desire to go an opportunity to start saving continuing education funds and perhaps work with their vestries to cover their cost of the trip. All interested clergy are encouraged to inform me of their desire to go, with the understanding that priority for the spots on the pilgrimage will be given to full-time, canonically resident clergy who have the longest service in the Diocese of Dallas. Those who have already made their pilgrimage to the Holy Land may join us at full cost, since the purpose of this initiative is to allow those who have not already gone to do so.

The second initiative began with the new way that we are financially supporting our seminarians. Instead of a grant that covered tuition only, and was given "without strings," we are now providing a loan to cover nearly the whole cost of attending seminary which will be cancelled over six years in return for serving congregations in the Diocese of Dallas. I decided that I wanted to extend this

benefit to clergy who are currently serving our parishes and missions. I have received the first $100,000 gift towards a total goal of $1 million to “buy” the seminary debt of currently serving clergy in our Diocese on the same terms offered to seminarians: it will be cancelled over a period of six years in return for continued service in our congregations. My hope is that every full-time member of the clergy would be debt-free in seven years and in the meantime would be relieved of the burden of servicing the loans that made their service to Christ’s Church possible. Again, the priority for the first monies received will be the relief of clergy who have the longest tenure in the Diocese of Dallas, working back to those newly ordained. I encourage all clergy who are still paying on loans accrued for the purpose of their seminary degrees (the MDiv. or its equivalent) to contact my assistant, Rosina Will, who will put you in touch with our diocesan treasurer, Rebecca Wellborn, to verify your eligibility and determine to whom the check would be made out. Additionally, I encourage clergy who may have someone in their congregation who would have the means and the will to contribute to this effort to help me connect with them to help us reach our goal.

I am enthusiastically looking forward to gathering our clergy and lay leaders together in early November for worship, fellowship, and the counsels of the Church. Until then, this comes with my blessing and prayer that the Archangel Michael and all the hosts of heaven with whom we join our voices in eucharistic praise would guard, guide, and protect you as you serve Jesus in and through his Church.

Faithfully,

+Robert Price