



Office of the Bishop

August 16, 2017

Dear Pastors, Parish Administrators, and Staff,

May God's blessings be with you!

In his encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reminds us, “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19).”

The 2017 Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) Annual Assembly will take place on Saturday, October 7, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Jefferson City. **This year, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of MCC and are pleased to welcome as our keynote speaker, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Papal Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America.**

Parishes should have already received packets from MCC containing flyers and announcements and an article on this year's celebration and a brief history of MCC was included in the August 11 edition of *The Catholic Key*. Please share this information and encourage our faithful to attend this important event for all Catholics in our state.

To assist you further, our diocesan Human Rights and Respect Life Offices will once again host a pilgrimage to Jefferson City. To register for the 2017 Annual Assembly, or for additional information about the pilgrimage, please visit www.mocatholic.org.

Thank you for your support and may our Lord Jesus Christ guide each of us as we strive to make Him known and loved.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph

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