**Message from Bishop Noël Simard**

**The 2023-24 Bishop's Charities Fundraising Campaign**

**Together, Let's Continue to Build the Kingdom!**

Together, let us continue to build the Kingdom! This is the pastoral theme that must guide our projects, activities and pastoral services for the year 2023-2024. Together, because if we want to build the Kingdom of God, we have to do so in solidarity, and by uniting our efforts in sharing, mutual aid, reconciliation and justice, especially by caring for the most vulnerable members of our world. Yes, building the Kingdom together is possible.

In these troubled times, and in the face of the hardships that continue to strike our world and our Church, and which weigh heavily on our economy, the financial state of our parishes and our diocese continues to be very difficult, even critical. As was the case last year, the diocese has once again dipped into its mutual aid fund to come to the rescue of "revenue poor" parishes. We need to replenish this fund as it is urgent!

In order to continue offering our pastoral services such as the formation of young people in Christian life, vocations ministry, support for families, aid for missions, for the development of peoples including our indigenous peoples, solidarity with the homeless and disadvantaged in our society, preservation of our environment, etc., we dare to appeal once again to your generosity and your financial contribution.

I know I can count on you and your collaboration. And don't hesitate to promote our fundraising campaign to your friends and family.

Together, we will succeed...

On behalf of the diocesan team, I thank you and assure you of my blessing,

+ Noël Simard

Bishop of Valleyfield