

Dear Friends in Oklahoma,

The last two years of the Bishop's Appeal have been remarkable in their impact. In 2020, we supported Historic Vernon AME in Tulsa to enhance their feeding ministry and help build a prayer wall. Last year, we helped Magdalen House OKC in their efforts to assist women coming out of prison.

In thinking and praying about this year's effort, I kept coming back to those words of Jesus from Matthew 25: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." This is no ordinary year. With inflation at historic levels, many Oklahomans are struggling to afford even the most basic essentials, like food. According to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, our state is the fifth hungriest state in the country, with over half a million people facing food insecurity on a regular basis.

As I travel around our diocese, I've been moved by how many of our congregations (especially the smallest ones) have ministries that feed their neighbors, through food pantries, community meals, blessing boxes and more. Others are close partners with non-profits in their communities that are feeding the hungry. To combat the hunger crisis in Oklahoma, this year's Bishop's Appeal will raise funds to feed the hungry in every part of our state, supporting our congregational feeding ministries and community partnerships.

Together, let's feed the hungry in our communities, seeing in them the face of Christ himself.

Blessings,  
+Bishop Poulson