



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

August 2020

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

Brothers in Christ,

The New Evangelization calls us to reexamine our relationship with Jesus Christ and our relationship with the Gospel with which we've been entrusted. Evangelizing Catholics in the pews is of great importance and concern in this time in the history of the Church. However, we know the work of evangelization cannot be accomplished solely in the pews. We must allow the richness of our faith to penetrate all aspects of our lives and each member of the family.

In his apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis states, "Although [the parish] is certainly not the only evangelizing institution, if it is capable of constantly reforming and adapting itself, it will continue to be '*the Church itself which lives in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.*' Through all its activities, the parish encourages and trains its members to be agents of evangelization. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty go to drink to continue walking, and a center of constant missionary sending."

Parishes reform and adapt themselves to Jesus Christ when families have His fervor and love burning in their hearts. The act of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a home enthronement is a treasured and beloved devotion in the rich tradition of our Catholic faith. It truly assists parents in cultivating practices of the faith in the home, and compels family members to give a living expression of their faith outside of the home. A home enthronement helps families to thirst for and draw deeply from the sacramental life of the Church offered at the parish level and to be missionaries of the New Evangelization.

With this in mind, I warmly commend to you this new guide. *Welcome His Heart* is a guide for home enthronement that is faithful to the tradition of the Church and can be carried out by families. A home enthronement through *Welcome His Heart* can truly help families deepen and expand their lives of faith, which will have a positive impact on the zeal for holiness we desire in our parish communities. Society places many demands on the attention of families. Rather than being one more thing on the schedule, *Welcome His Heart*, can help families reorder their lives to serve Jesus Christ with more intentionality and joy, thus helping them find peace in their busy schedules.

With the help of this wonderful guide, *Welcome His Heart*, I enthusiastically invite you to share this with your parishioners and to encourage them to consider a home enthronement to the Sacred Heart.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus