



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

October 25, 2021
Month of the Holy Rosary
Year of Saint Joseph

Dear Brothers,

We pray that this letter finds you well. We are writing to let you know about an important research project being undertaken at Catholic University by *The Catholic Project*, and to solicit your assistance and that of your priests.

The State of the American Priest is an ambitious project with the goal of ascertaining the overall well-being of the American presbyterate with a particular emphasis on how the two decades since the Dallas Charter have affected relationships and trust between priests and bishops. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) will conduct an initial survey of bishops this fall, and Gallup will conduct interviews of priests, beginning in early 2022.

This study provides several major opportunities. It will replicate a number of questions asked in earlier national surveys of priests, which will allow comparison over decades. This iteration will provide a baseline for a longitudinal study, which can assess the trust and fraternal bonds among priests, and between priests and their bishops, in the coming decades. Such a study has never been done before.

We all know how important the well-being of our priests is, and while there is no substitute for strong personal relationships, studies like this can help us see and understand challenges--and opportunities--we might otherwise miss. We would be grateful for your support, both in completing the initial survey this fall and in encouraging your priests to respond authentically and freely to an invitation to participate if they are asked. With broad participation, this study has the potential to shed light on the well-being of our priests, particularly in light of the extraordinary challenges of recent years.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Stephen White, the Director of The Catholic Project, would be happy to provide any further information to you or your staff. He can be contacted at whitesp@cua.edu.

Fraternally in Christ,

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. On the left is the signature of Wilton Cardinal Gregory, and on the right is the signature of Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan. A plus sign is placed between the two signatures.

†Wilton Cardinal Gregory
Archbishop of Washington

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

CC: Rev. Michael J.K. Fuller, Interim General Secretary