



**BISHOP OF STEUBENVILLE
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November 29, 2021

Reverend David Pivonka, TOR, President
Franciscan University of Steubenville
1235 University Boulevard
Steubenville, OH 43952

Dear Father Pivonka and All at Franciscan University of Steubenville:

Seventy-five years ago, our University began with its first President, Father Daniel William Egan, in the Diocese of Steubenville and under the pastoral care of the first Bishop of Steubenville, Bishop John King Mussio. Since then, the University has not just changed addresses in the city, but has grown immensely beyond the first freshman class of 300 students in 1946.

This past three quarters of a century has witnessed strong pastoral outreach by the University, all the while educating students who would serve throughout the world. Certainly, the Franciscan University of Steubenville has been loyal to its title as a Catholic University, faithful to the Church's teachings all the while exercising missionary discipleship with great joy and zeal.

On behalf of the Diocese of Steubenville, please know of our profound gratitude for your faithful service as we appropriately celebrate this sacred benchmark. Know of my continued prayers as well as all the faithful in the Diocese as you promote the Franciscan values of an *education that challenges you intellectually, forms you professionally, and feeds you spiritually.*

Entrusting you to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of our beloved Diocese and to the care of both St. Francis and St. Claire of Assisi, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville