

## A commentary on our Diocesan Mission Statement

In **red**, for the blood of Christ: **Encountering Christ**.

A relationship begins with an encounter. *Jesus told Nicodemus that when he must be raised up* (Jn 3:13), later in the same gospel adding that, *He will thus draw all people to himself* (Jn 12:32)

And so the centurion on Calvary is the first to have the door opened to faith in the crucified Christ: *Surely this man is God's son!* (Mk 15:39) And beholding the wounds in the risen Lord, Thomas exclaims, *My Lord and my God* (Jn 20:28). We meet Christ in many ways (e.g. the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy) but ultimately in his love unto death.



In **blue**, for the Blessed Virgin Mary: **Becoming Disciples**.

We learn to follow our Lord by the mentorship of others. The Saints, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary in her 'yes', *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord*, (Lk 1:38) are our examples and the intercessions. The Lord welcomes us to his family as we grow in the living out of faith in love: *Whoever does the will of my Father is my brother, and sister, and mother* (Mk 3:35)

In **green**, for springtime health: **Making Disciples**

Like any healthy organism, we give as we have received, following our Lord's command, *Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always to the end of the age* (Mt 28:20). Thus we dare to be with others in ways that they encounter Christ through us, i.e., through what we do and say.



Cross in **Gold**, from (Ps 119:79) we hear that in God we have something that is worth more than silver or gold. Indeed, with Saint Paul, *we remember that our true boast is in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ* (Gal 6:14).

