

St. Alphonse, January 2025.

Dear Members of the Diakonia from the International English Speaking Catholic Community of Luxembourg, Parish of Notre Dame de Luxembourg.

I know that no words or accolades on my part could adequately express our gratitude and admiration for all that you have done over the years.

The seven themes of catholic social teaching are:

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community and participation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Option for the poor and vulnerable
- The dignity of work and the rights of workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's creation

These seven themes should be the calling card and hallmark of all christians and indeed all people. They chart out a plan for a world that is responsible and caring, just and inclusive, and they embody the heart of the gospel message and the mission of our church. You as a group of active, committed members of the Diakonia have worked so hard to be faithful to these themes and have really done amazing work over the years in raising awareness and in actively engaging with the core issues of social justice. I want to sincerely thank you all on behalf of the church and especially on behalf of the anglophone community for your incredible dedication and action. Each one of you brought your gifts and your passion to this area of life and really enriched the life of our community by so doing.

Now as you move on to another phase of action I pray that you will continue to motivate us to stay on track and would ask that each one of you, where possible, give your valued wisdom and great expertise as a continuing resource for us all. Don't be afraid to prompt us if you see that we are falling short or failing in any area. The greek word Diakonia means service among others and you clearly put flesh on this word over many years now. Our prayer as you pass on the baton to another generation is that the Lord will grant each one of you health, happiness and peace and bless and reward you a hundred fold for all you have done. 'Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me.' Matthew 25:40

God bless and reward you all,

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cusack, C.Ss.R. (on behalf of all in the International English Speaking Catholic Community, Luxembourg.)