

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111-3710
Bishop'sOffice@hbgdiocese.org
(717) 657-4804 ext. 354
www.hbgdiocese.org

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The Lord's merciful and Sacred Heart wishes to embrace all who experience the pain of infertility. He has raised up within His Church a solicitude for couples suffering from the inability to conceive children. We have seen this solicitude budding forth in various forms of outreach and apostolates. In this regard, I would like to highly recommend one such apostolate of our own Diocese, *Springs in the Desert*.

In response to the great number of couples going through the trial that is infertility, *Springs in the Desert* provides sound spiritual, and emotional guidance rooted in the riches of our Catholic faith. This beautiful apostolate exists to serve the sanctity and fruitfulness of marriage as expressed in the gift of self of the spouses. Thus, *Springs in the Desert* empowers couples to recover the meaning and dignity of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony as witness to faith and fidelity in the midst of great suffering.

In addition, I commend the initiative and creativity with which *Springs in the Desert* offers community and accompaniment in whichever experience of infertility the couple is undergoing. Each couple is encouraged to seek the opportunities for fruitfulness that God is offering them.

I wholeheartedly support *Springs in the Desert*, and invite couples carrying the cross of infertility to feel welcome in coming to this apostolate for support, a deepening of faith, and community, as we walk together toward the healing touch of Christ Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald W. Gainer".

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer