



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

915 South Clinton Street • Post Office Box 390
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

April 5, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recommend *Springs in the Desert* and its much-needed mission of providing concrete spiritual and emotional support to individuals and couples who struggle with infertility. This beautiful apostolate is firmly rooted in the anthropology, ethics and spirituality of the Catholic Church and reflects a rich understanding of the vocation and sacrament of marriage.

Springs in the Desert offers a creative and compassionate response to the call that was issued more than three decades ago by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its document *Donum vitae*: “The suffering of spouses who cannot have children ... is a suffering that everyone must understand and properly evaluate....The community of believers is called to shed light upon and support the suffering of those who are unable to fulfill their legitimate aspiration to motherhood and fatherhood” (#8).

I pray that *Springs in the Desert* will continue to encourage those who struggle with infertility to unite their suffering with the suffering of Christ. May Our Lady intercede for all who participate in this apostolate, that they might experience the spiritual fruitfulness which never fails to flow from the cross of her Son!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Kevin C. Rhoades*

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

KCR/dl