



His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to learn that on 19 June 2021 the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will mark the Bicentennial of its establishment. On this significant occasion, His Holiness joins you in giving thanks for the blessings bestowed upon the Archdiocese over the past two hundred years through the preaching of the Gospel, the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice and the ecclesial apostolates of educating the young and providing charitable assistance to those in need. As the Church in Cincinnati now looks to the future, he trusts that all the baptized will be renewed in a spirit of missionary discipleship and in their commitment to serve as an effective leaven of the Gospel, bearing witness to its saving truth in the midst of the larger community “not only with words but above all by lives transfigured by God’s presence” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 259). Commending you and all the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese to the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, His Holiness willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord.

– *Cardinal Pietro Parolin*
Secretary of State