1421 6th Street North New Ulm MN 56073-2071

> Tel: (507) 359-2966 Email: bishop@dnu.org

August 27, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our hearts are heavy as we grieve with Annunciation School as well as the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis following the tragedy that took place this morning. We extend heartfelt prayers for the victims, their families, the school community, and the local Church. May Christ, the Divine Healer, bring peace, comfort, and strength in the midst of this unimaginable sorrow.

In moments like this, we are reminded of the sacred trust placed in us to care for and protect the children in our Catholic schools. Please be assured that in the Diocese of New Ulm, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing safe, faith-filled learning environments. Our schools continue to review and follow established safety protocols, partner closely with local law enforcement, and train students and staff regularly to ensure we are as prepared as possible.

As we mourn with our brothers and sisters, let us also deepen our resolve to foster communities of safety, compassion, and peace rooted in the love of Christ. Now, more than ever, we need to come together in prayer and unity.

We entrust the Diocese of New Ulm and all Catholic school families to the care of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Prairie, asking for her intercession and protection.

May Christ's light shine through this darkness of evil.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Chad W. Zielinski

Bishop of New Ulm