

## PRESS RELEASE — For Immediate Release

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## Diocese of Charleston remembers the feast of the Holy Innocents

CHARLESTON — December 29 is celebrated by Catholics and many Christians as the feast of the Holy Innocents and Martyrs. The Day commemorates the children who were executed under the reign of King Herod the Great of Judea in an attempt to kill the infant Jesus. These children, whose names are known only to God, are considered the first martyrs of the early Church.

On this day, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston remembers in a special way all innocent victims of violence, whether doctor-assisted suicide, the death penalty, domestic abuse, human trafficking, terrorism, abortion and the separation of children from their biological parents at the border.

"Every person, created in the image and likeness of our maker, should be cherished and protected," stated Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, Bishop of Charleston. "Today we pray for the end of systematic violence against human persons."

The Catholic Church teaches that indifference to and destruction of innocent human life is inherently wrong. "These evils plague our state and country. I urge people of good will to advance a culture of life that supports the care of all people," Bishop Fabre said.

The Diocese of Charleston continues to advocate for laws that protect all human persons, from conception to natural death, because "every human being has inherent dignity that my never be taken away," Bishop Fabre reiterated. "We urge our state lawmakers to pass life-affirming legislation in the upcoming governmental session."

## ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 114 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, and 350,000 people. It encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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