



Feb. 1, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, we heard the penultimate discourse of the Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes. For each group of people Jesus describes, he begins with the phrase, ‘Blessed are those who ...’ If you listen closely to what our Lord says, it sounds like he is speaking in opposites. We don’t normally think of those who are mourning, for example, to be blessed, but instead rather unfortunate.

We usually ‘bless’ God on Thanksgiving for the gifts that he gives us; for the food that sustains us; for good health of mind, body and soul; for the faith; for a good family and a peaceful community; especially for the gift of his life, death and resurrection. But Jesus is asking us to bless God for what we do not have, for what we know we must accomplish for God and for our brothers and sisters.

More specifically, we are blessed with the hope of God’s providence and mercy for each of his children. And Christ’s timeless message still applies today in our own lives.

We are blessed for those who hear the Gospel and are inspired to share it. We are blessed to have the desire in our hearts to catechize every Catholic. We are blessed because we want everyone to be served. We are blessed because we want all nations to experience peace.

We are blessed because we want every aspect of God’s own image to be recognized in one another. We are blessed because we want everyone to have a good education — beginning in the family.

We are blessed because we want every brother and sister to have shelter, to be clothed and to celebrate our faith in unity. We are blessed because we each have a fundamental right to life. We are blessed because we receive in our hearts all those who have nowhere and no one to turn to.

We are blessed because, when we sin and transgress against others and repay our wrongs, we can ultimately be forgiven. We are blessed because we want to be different, and yet we strive for harmony. This is the message of the Gospel.

Do not be troubled by the things that are imperfect in human society. Through faith in Christ, we know we are blessed, because we thirst for truth, justice, peace and the goodness of our blessed Savior's ministry that never ceases.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '+ Jacques Fabre-Jeune CS'.

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston