

ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Feb. 2, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever. We recently celebrated the feast of St. John Bosco on Jan. 31, and I wanted to reach out to you, dear young people, to encourage you to continue sharing the *kerygma* and make more disciples for Christ.

From his childhood, “Don” Bosco worked tirelessly to serve those around him. He helped his widowed mother sustain their family by tending sheep. Despite family poverty, he would share the little food he had with those without homes. He always found a way to give and share his faith with others. Because of this, he was able to clearly hear, from a very young age, the voice of God calling him to the priesthood.

Don Bosco spent his ministry as a shepherd of the people of God by giving Christian witness primarily to orphaned and abandoned children in Turin, Italy. By the time he founded the Salesians (formally the Society of St. Francis de Sales), he had ministered to 800 children. He gave them a place to live and taught about the Word of God and the love that Christ had for each of them.

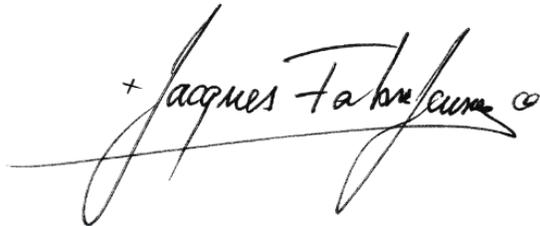
I ask that you approach your relationships with others with the same spirit of giving, charity, humor and abandonment to the will of God that Don Bosco exemplified. You are in a time of your life where you might be wondering what you are called to do in the future, whether in married or religious life. But your vocation is right now. And when you do good and trust in God to lead you, you too will hear his voice. Consistent and virtuous habits will help you follow it.

Don't be afraid to express your faith in public or even on social media. Your friends will follow you, and they are learning from the witness of evangelization you give by living your lives for Christ Jesus.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. I wish you a blessed Lenten season.

*“My children, jump, run and play and make all the noise you want, but avoid sin like the plague and you will surely gain heaven” (St. John Bosco).*

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Jacques Fabre-Jeune" followed by a small circular mark. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

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