



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 1, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the second month of *Via Fidelis*, we recall the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20). Our monthly activity in March is: “Join or start a small faith group using the weekly study guide,” and we provide one each month at charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis-parish-resources. These small groups can be held in person or virtually.

We know from the teachings of the Church, and by our own personal experiences, that our journey to understand the faith is not done in a vacuum. We walk in the company of others. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that faith is a personal act, “the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act ... Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith” (CCC 166).

We encounter Christ in our daily lives through the voices of others just as the disciples did when our Lord walked the earth in his ministry. When we actively discuss our faith with another person, we often leave with a new perspective on how we can approach our relationship with Jesus.

We must also remember that catechesis “has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ” (CCC 1697) throughout our shared journey to accept his person. In understanding both aspects, the joys and the demands of the Christian life, we are each called to embrace our unique vocations, not to shy away from what God wills for us.

So, as you come together to discuss Scripture and the *Catechism*, along with the Lenten themes of Exodus and Christ’s 40 days in the desert, I ask that you find at least one person that will keep you accountable in the areas of your spiritual life where you may fall short or misunderstand. Be that person in the lives of others without asking first, and always through

loving invitation.

Please be assured of my prayers for you as we continue to prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal season.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Jacques Fabre-Jeune" with a small circular mark at the end.

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