ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the peace, the hope and the joy of the Easter Season be upon you, now and forever!

Imagine Jesus' tomb, with its heavy stone rolled back, and the fear and confusion the two apostles must have felt as they rushed back to Mary and the other disciples.

"They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him!" cried Mary Magdalene, as she sought Jesus. Their worries disappeared when Jesus came to them with a message of hope — *Be not afraid!* Through the suffering, death and resurrection of our triumphant Lord, we are given an opportunity to experience life in God's grace and mercy.

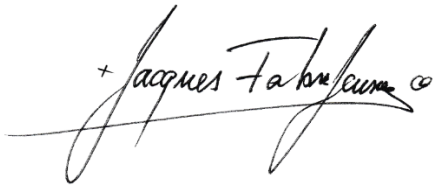
As we celebrate the octave of Easter and continue to journey together through *Via Fidelis*, ask someone, either older or younger than you, about their experiences growing up Catholic. This will deepen your understanding of the faith, so that we give thanks together for the great gift of life that he has given.

And, in a special way on Divine Mercy Sunday, make the effort to show forgiveness to others and tell them that they are loved by their Father in heaven. Remember to make the "invisible God visible" through your witness as a believer in the Resurrected Christ.

I wish you and your families a blessed Easter season.

He is risen! Truly, he is risen!

In Christ's love,



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