



ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month's *Via Fidelis* activity is to "Participate in one faith formation opportunity offered by your parish or by the diocese." This could be revisiting OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), even though you are a cradle Catholic, to sharpen your understanding of the faith. Perhaps join a family-focused retreat or even a single evening of Bible study at your parish. Whatever you choose, the goal is simply to keep growing in the knowledge and love of this treasury of our Catholic faith.

OCIA is designed for you to ask any type of question about Catholicism, maybe one you have been interested to explore deeper for years. The process follows the liturgical season to include reflections that draw us closer to God during Lent and especially leading up to the Paschal season. Through it all, it helps us remember that our formation in the faith is never truly finished. We are all, in some sense, perpetual *catechumens* — a word from Greek meaning "one who is instructed." We are always being shaped and drawn deeper into the mystery of Christ.

As we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "It is intrinsic to faith that a believer desires to know better the One in whom he has put his faith" (CCC 158). This longing in our hearts manifests as a life in which we continue to seek Jesus at every opportunity.

I encourage you to take up this month's activity with an open and willing heart. Speak with your pastor, investigate what your parish or the diocese is offering, and take that next step on the *Via Fidelis* — the faithful way.

May your efforts this month draw you closer to Christ, "that you may grow in the knowledge of God" (Col 1:10).

In Christ's love,

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