



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Diocese of Youngstown

April, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In a world riddled every day with bad news we rejoice heartily in the Good News of Easter. Jesus is alive! He is risen! Alleluia! What makes this news so noteworthy and even celebratory is that Jesus has conquered death. True to his word, Jesus fulfills his promise, “I come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

The joy of Easter contains the living hope of new and eternal life. Throughout this entire Easter Octave and Season, we will behold this life that flows from the heart of Christ and ripples into our hearts and homes. With the whole Church we will enter into those first encounters the Risen Lord had with his disciples. Many of these apparitions were marked by the greeting, “Peace be with you!” This greeting of peace is certainly Jesus’ desire for each and every one of us.

The events of this past year, most notably, the pandemic with its isolation, distance, and trail of unprecedented death, have taken the life out of us and robbed us of peace rendering us at times weary and hopeless. The Good News of the empty tomb offers hope and peace.

As I celebrate my first Easter with you as your bishop, I invite you to rejoice in this Good News and to echo it in your lives. I pray that you and your loved ones may come to know more intimately the Risen Lord and encounter the life and peace that only he can give. As true disciples, may we race from the empty tomb to share this life and peace with others. And as we continue this sacred journey together, I invite you to pray with me the prayer of Jesus, “That all may be one.”

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown