



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

Easter 2022

Dear Clergy, Religious, and Faithful of the Diocese of Youngstown,

Every year at the Easter Vigil we hear the amazing story of how God created the world. The first words God uttered were, "Let there be light!" (Genesis 1:3) and light emerged.

God desires us to live in the light. The Good News of Easter is the victory of light over darkness, grace over sin, and life over death. He is risen! He is alive! Alleluia!

With the whole Church throughout the world, we welcome all those who have chosen to be part of this light and life through their immersion in the waters of baptism. Welcome to the family!

We also rejoice in those who, while already baptized, are now fully initiated into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. We are excited to welcome you to the fullness of our community in Jesus Christ.

For those of us fully initiated into the Church, we cannot help but reflect at this time on our own Christian baptism when we were named and claimed by Christ. As we renew our baptismal promises, we also recommit ourselves to keeping our light of faith burning brightly especially in the dark corners of our world. We not only say with the Church, "I do," to our baptismal promises, but we also implicitly say, "I will be a light."

During this Easter time may we go forth grateful for the light of Jesus. May we aspire to be His light in the world. And may we always seek to "Testify to the light." Happy Easter!

Together, let us pray, "That All May Be One."

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown

DJB/sdmp

144 West Wood Street • Youngstown, Ohio 44503
(330) 744-8451 • Fax: (330) 742-6448 • Email: dbonnar@youngstowndiocese.org

