



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

March 23, 2018

The scripture accounts of the Resurrection speak about the need for those who encountered the Risen Lord to share joyfully the good news with others. What made their message credible was the fact that they were witnesses – they had seen the Risen Lord.

There are so many ways that we are able to see the Risen Lord each day. We see Him most perfectly in the Holy Eucharist where Jesus is substantially present – body, blood, soul and divinity – under the appearance of bread and wine. Christ is also present in the Sacred Scriptures. In both the Old Testament and in the New Testament, Jesus the Word of God is present to strengthen our faith. Jesus is present in us and in the community of faith, as Jesus says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them” (Mt.18:20). We also know that the glory of God can be found in nature. As Genesis reminds us, God made all things and what He made was good. We can encounter Jesus in the beauty of creation.

If we have encountered the Risen Lord in so many ways, how do we witness to this fact? Do we share the good news that we have ‘seen the Lord’ so that others may come to know, love and serve Him?

The theme for our Sixtieth Diocesan Anniversary is, “Put Out into the Deep” and it focuses on drawing people to Christ. We do this by joyfully witnessing to our faith and to the fact that we have seen the Lord. This is the heart of evangelization and something that we are called to do as followers of Jesus.

It is my hope and prayer that during the Easter Season we will take some time to consider prayerfully what it means to be a witness to the Resurrection. What am I doing to bring people to Christ? Perhaps it can begin by simply extending an invitation to someone to join you for the Sacred Triduum or Easter Mass. Do not be afraid to “Put Out into the Deep.” You may be surprised by what you discover.

May the Risen Lord grant you a grace-filled Easter.

Yours sincerely in Christ, ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines