



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the ancient hymn the *Exsultet* is proclaimed. In one of the verses of this ancient hymn, we find the following words, “O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a redeemer!”.

Heaven and earth are called to exult because of God’s triumph over sin and death. From this passage, we are also called to joyfully acknowledge the theological paradox found in the fact that without the sin of Adam, we would not have received “so glorious a redeemer”. This ‘happy fault’ (*felix culpa*) created something very good in the coming of Jesus Christ.

As we look around us today, we see a world that seems to be filled with many ‘faults’ that do not make us very happy. The world has been redeemed in Christ; however, the effects of sin are still with us.

The Feast of Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and reminds us that from death comes life. We celebrate the fact that something good can come from something bad and that sadness can be transformed to joy.

When faced with the growing hostility and insecurity in our world, our response should not be one of passive resignation or fear. We need to turn to our Risen Lord who has triumphed over sin and evil. We should focus on the good that is found in our salvation – “O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!”

We are called to model Mary Magdalene who, after encountering the Risen Jesus, proceeded to tell others, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18). To witness to Christ points the world to what is good, true, and beautiful as a counter to sin, confusion, and the ugliness of war and conflict. Jesus brings hope that things can change for the better because we have been redeemed.

Our diocese has embarked on a Pastoral Plan that focuses on a simple mission. We want to set hearts on fire with God’s love. As faithful disciples of Jesus, we all have a role in this task which is at the heart of evangelization.

Let us adjust our gaze from a world that is mired in the effects of sin to the Risen Lord who offers healing and hope. This Easter, let us call others to do the same, especially our family members and friends.

“O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a redeemer!”.

Wish prayerful best wishes for a blessed Easter, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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

P.O. Box 875, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 6Z4
905-684-0154 • Fax: 905-684-7551
Email: bishop@saintcd.com