



Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter!

Sunday, at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, I was pleased to be joined by more than 1,000 people for a beautiful Mass to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was a joy-filled celebration and wonderful to see so many faces, new and old, come together to praise the Risen Lord.

I offer you today the same invitation I offered in my [Easter homily](#) to those present. I invite you to open your hearts to Christ, the Son of God made man who died and rose for us and for our salvation. I invite you to grow deeper in the new life of the Risen Christ, to open your hearts afresh to Christ, to re-embrace the core message of the Gospel, to learn more about your faith, and to become involved in the Church's life and mission of faith, worship, and service.

On Easter Monday, Pope Francis [spoke](#) of the joy we experience in the telling of Christ's resurrection and urged us to carry that joy with us as we live our lives. "Let this experience imprinted in the Gospel be imprinted in our hearts and in our lives. Let the joyous wonder of Easter Sunday radiate through our thoughts, looks, attitudes, gestures, and words."

As we allow the grace and joy of the Easter season to fill our hearts, we prepare to [celebrate](#) next Sunday the canonization of two former popes, Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II. The Archdiocese of Baltimore invites you to join us as we commemorate this special day in the life of our Church and remember the blessed occasion of the visit to our Archdiocese by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

May the joy we find in the Risen Lord and the example of our newest saints inspire each of us to share these gifts with others, as well as the many blessings of our Catholic faith.

Faithfully in Christ,

+ William E. Lori

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