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March 26, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

With yesterday's celebration of Palm Sunday, we entered into the most sacred season of the Church's liturgical calendar. It is a time to reflect prayerfully on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It's also a time to put into action the call of missionary discipleship – to spread the Good News of Christ alive in the world.

I invite you to attend Mass and other liturgical celebrations during this Holy Week. For a schedule of Masses and other liturgies in parishes throughout the archdiocese, click here.

We will gather as an archdiocesan family at the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 26, at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Homeland. During the Mass, which begins at 7:30 p.m., priests from throughout the archdiocese will publicly renew their vows. The oils of catechumens and the oils of the sick will be blessed, and the Holy Chrism will be consecrated.

A Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

On Good Friday, March 30, the annual prayer walk to the Planned Parenthood on Howard Street in Baltimore will begin at 8 a.m. at the National Shrine of St. Alphonsus Liguori. We will pray the Stations of the Cross along the way and pray the rosary outside Planned Parenthood in support of the sanctity of life.

A 3 p.m. service commemorating the Lord's Passion will be held on Good Friday at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

On Holy Saturday, an 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, and an Easter Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 10:45 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

During the Easter Season, we will be blessed to welcome Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock, Ph. D., Senior Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. He will deliver a special message at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen during a 7 p.m. ecumenical and interfaith <u>prayer service</u> April 12 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This Easter Season, let us all heed Pope Francis' challenge to accept the grace of Christ's Resurrection.

"Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives," Pope Francis said in the first Easter message of his pontificate, "and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish."

+ Silliam & Louis

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori Archbishop of Baltimore