MESSAGE FROM BISHOP NOËL SIMARD FOR EASTER 2023

EASTER: TO RENEW OUR HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE

In the winter that our world and the Church are currently going through, where can we hold on to our hope when the ground on which we walk seems to be cracking and slipping away from our feet? How can we remain firm in our hopes and refuse to be shaken by the external shocks of war, inflation, the financial and economic crisis, the many natural disasters, the attacks on life such as euthanasia, the misery and displacement of so many people, etc.? After a Lent that has prepared us to live the cross of Christ with faith, hope and charity, we celebrate His Easter, the victory of life over death, of light over darkness.

In his message for the Easter celebrations of 2019, Pope Francis invited us not to give in "to resignation and failure," calling for "a Church renewed and rejuvenated by Christ." His words are still very relevant today. Christ did not remain locked in the tomb; He emerged victorious. He is the Risen One and He walks with us, showing us the way to the new life that is always possible. He is alive and comes to make something new in us. So we cannot despair or resign ourselves; we cannot bury hope and remain frozen in the tomb of fear and inaction. On the contrary, we are invited to stand upright, to look to the sky, to make something new with Christ. With Him and through Him, we find the strength to make something new emerge through our care for our neighbor, our attention to the weak and sick, our solidarity with the poor, the homeless, the excluded of our society.

May Easter give us the impetus to believe in a better tomorrow, new eyes to see the signs of life around us, and the audacity to bring our hands, our hearts and our whole being to the building of a world of peace, love, light and life! With Christ, let us make something new and together let His life burst forth!

Happy and Holy Easter, filled with the blessings of the Risen One!

+ Your Bishop Noël