

## **EASTER MESSAGE**

**Bishop Jose Colin M. Bagaforo**

Easter proclaims a truth that stands above all else: God's love is the greatest love of all. It is a love stronger than our failures, deeper than our wounds, and greater than our sins. No darkness we carry, no brokenness we endure, can overcome the power of a love that rises from the grave and restores all things. This is the foundation of our hope, and the wellspring of our commitment to live differently in the world.

Easter is always a beginning. It calls us to let go of what burdens the heart—to forget what must be left behind, and to forgive as we have been forgiven. In this spirit, we embrace the path of reconciliation, not as passive acceptance, but as a courageous choice to restore right relationships—with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Yet Easter is not only a message to receive—it is a call to mission.

Inspired by the principles of Pax Christi, we are called to work for a just peace rooted in the Gospel. This is a peace built not on domination or silence, but on truth, nonviolence, human dignity, and the transformation of unjust structures. It is a peace that listens to the cries of the poor, protects the integrity of creation, and actively resists violence in all its forms.

In a world marked by conflict and suffering—especially in the Middle East—Easter challenges us to deepen both our compassion and our moral clarity. We stand in solidarity with all who suffer from war and displacement, mourning the loss of life, the destruction of communities, and the devastation of the environment. At the same time, we affirm that genuine peace cannot exist without justice. Our longing for reconciliation must never silence the call for accountability and responsibility.

As Christ forgives and rises from the dead, we too are called to pursue a peace that upholds truth, defends the dignity of every person, and seeks justice for those most affected—especially the poor, who bear the greatest cost of conflict and economic hardship.

Easter reminds us: never despair. Even amid trials, wars, and temptations, we hold fast to the promise that God's love endures. The peace of Christ is not defeated by violence; it persists, transforms, and ultimately triumphs. In this hope, we commit ourselves to be active peacemakers—rejecting violence, embracing nonviolence, and working tirelessly for a world where justice and peace embrace.

May this Easter renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and send us forth as witnesses of Love, builders of Just Peace, and faithful stewards of God's creation.

Alleluia!