



## EASTER MESSAGE 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy Easter!

Easter is the greatest Feast of the Church Year, so great that we will continue to celebrate it for the next 50 days. The Season of Easter is characterized by celebrations of great joy, the use of the festive color white, and the constant repeating of the ancient word of praise, "Alleluia!"

In his wonderful encyclical letter, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis extended the following invitation, "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them... whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms." (EG3)

Today, I offer the same invitation to each of you. Let the Risen Jesus encounter you. Welcome Him into your lives, hearts, families and networks of friends. Let Him offer to you the new life, joy and hope that only He can bring. How do you need to experience new life this Easter? How and where do you long for hope?

All too often, in our lives, we do the same old things, hoping that we will get a new response. But when the angels appeared to the weeping Mary Magdalene after Jesus' Resurrection, they said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has been raised to new life!" (Luke 24:5)

This Easter, try something new! Jesus still walks with us on the road of life, as He walked with Mary Magdalene and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Today, we can encounter Him by going out. If we move out of our comfort zones, we will see the face of Jesus in the sick, the hungry, and those who can't give anything back. So long as we do these things to the least of your sisters or brothers, Jesus tells us that we do it to Him.

This is how you and I will find Jesus, and also find new life, new meaning, fresh purpose and Easter joy.

Wishing you all the hope that Easter promises,

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**Most Reverend Martin W. Currie, D.D.**  
*Archbishop of St. John's*