



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

October 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for setting aside the time to join in this first-ever online Pastoral Conference. I am grateful for the work you do to bring the Risen Lord to a world in desperate need, and I am confident that the work we do together in His name will continue to bear fruit.

We pastors often lament the continued decline in Mass attendance, baptisms, and sacramental marriages in our parishes. This decrease in reception of the sacraments saddens me, as it shows that many people are not aware of the richness and beauty of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

There are many parts of our culture untouched by the Good News of Jesus. However, there are still some 70,000,000 baptized Catholics living in the United States today. If we do not see the light of Christ reaching into the darkness around us, why not? Is it because there aren't enough of us, or is it because we need conversion?

The purpose of the Church is not to be just another organization. And our aim is not simply to try to get bigger for the sake of being bigger. Our mission is to make it possible for people here and now in the 21st century to meet the Risen Jesus. This Pastoral Conference is our attempt to focus more clearly and creatively on Jesus and on the mission He gives us.

May the Lord help us fulfill the Great Commission throughout northeast Nebraska, bringing the light of the Gospel to our neighbors.

Know that you remain in my prayers each day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ George J. Lucas".

Most Reverend George J. Lucas