



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

April 8, 2026

Wednesday of the Octave of Easter

Dear Diocesan Family,

Easter greetings! May the peace of the Risen Lord be with each of you! In my prayer time this morning, I had the opportunity to reflect on the verses from the Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10, which are the source of my episcopal motto, “In the Name of Jesus.” While reflecting on this post-resurrection scene I was struck by a simple phrase “hand out.” The beggar at the Beautiful Gate had his hand out seeking help from Peter and John; and in turn, Peter reached his hand out and “in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean” (v. 6) was able to bring the man healing – literally, lifting him to new heights.

Today, as the human family stands on the brink of war and the destruction of **all** civilization I write to you “In the Name of Jesus” asking you to reach out your hands in prayer and healing for the nations of our world. On Easter Sunday, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV delivered a forceful and globally resonant message calling for peace, reconciliation, and moral responsibility amid ongoing conflicts worldwide. This morning in his Wednesday General Audience in St. Peter’s Square the Holy Father stated: *“Only by returning to the negotiating table can we bring the war to an end. I urge you to accompany this time of delicate diplomatic work with prayer, in the hope that a willingness to engage in dialogue may become the means to resolve other situations of conflict in the world.”*

With these words in mind and heeding our own baptismal calling to carry the light of Christ and his teachings into the public square, I invite our diocesan family to join Pope Leo in his request for a Vigil of Prayer for Peace this coming Saturday, April 11. Besides our own personal prayer that day, I invite you to join me at Holy Cross Church in Dewitt on April 11th for the 9:00 am Daily Mass to be followed by a Holy Hour and Rosary for Peace. Here together we can lift up our hearts and hands in intercessory prayer for world leaders and for world peace - praying that civility and charity will help address the world’s woundedness and provide much needed relief to the innocent caught in the crossfire of egos.

I would also invite you to use your hand in communicating with our own national leaders both in the executive branch and in Congress by writing them and urging them to responsible leadership both nationally and internationally. Let us ask them to raise their hands in solidarity with peace and justice efforts that will promote the dignity and sanctity of each and every member of the human family.

Faith • Hope • Charity

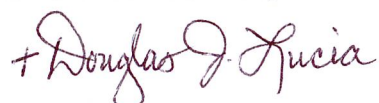
As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us: “Respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is ‘the tranquility of order.’ Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity” (#2304).

This weekend, the Catholic Church will observe also “Divine Mercy” Sunday. As you and I are invited to put our trust in Jesus’ overflowing mercy, let us be attentive to the call that such mercy should flow from his disciples. Mercy that exhibits itself through the extension of forgiveness to those who trespass against us and which is evidenced through being instruments of Christ’s peace in our world today.

Two very popular songs in Catholic worship are, “The Prayer of St. Francis” and “Let There Be Peace On Earth.” Let us not forget that in each of these musical pieces the words call the “singer” to be the instrument of peace asking it to begin **with me**. Let us pray that like the apostles, Peter and John, our hands may be used to bring to others the peace Christ came to bring.

With my own promise of continued prayers for you and your loved ones,

In the Name of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "+ Douglas J. Lucia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse