



## BISHOP OF HAMILTON

### EASTER MESSAGE 2023

Dear Friends,

As we gather to celebrate the Easter feasts this year, I offer my greetings and good wishes. It has been encouraging to see such large numbers of faithful gather once again for the Holy Week celebrations! The gathering of so many at the Cathedral for the celebration of this year's Chrism Mass is a sure sign that the COVID restrictions are behind us and that fear no longer inhibits us from coming together as a community of faith to give thanks to God for blessings showered upon us.

Following the Holy Thursday and Good Friday remembrance, we gather for the Easter Vigil, hearing the scriptures, singing the psalms, and praying the prayers in anticipation of our Easter "ALLELUIA"! The lighting of the Easter candle is a powerful reminder that even a flickering flame makes a huge difference in a darkened room. Our faith, as tentative and fragile as it might seem, can make the world of difference for our children, our families, our friends and our neighbours. And when we act as Christ teaches, our faith can mean everything for the little one who experiences the generosity of our love.

After weeks of fasting and deprivation, we now experience the joy of Easter feasting! We remember all too clearly that many still experience the pain of hunger and thirst, the misery of war and destruction, and the sorrow of hatred and rejection. As we sing our Easter Alleluias in the light of the Easter candle, we offer our greetings and goodness to those who live on the edges of darkness – praying that they, too, might know HIS LIGHT, and ours.

May you be richly blessed this Easter! And through you, may many know the love that God showers upon us by letting us be called "His children" – "for that is what we are" (1 Jn.).

Happy Easter to all!

Sincerely in the Risen Christ and Mary Immaculate,

*+ Douglas Crosby*, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton.

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