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OFFICE OF  
THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**“Christ is Risen!”** Even though we have to practice “social distancing” we are always spiritually close as members of the one Body of Christ. Baptism makes us a family in faith, and at Easter we joyfully proclaim the glorious news that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. In the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Easter this year may be unlike any other, but the light of the resurrection remains undimmed, the cause of our joy undiminished, and the strength of our faith unbroken.

The world turns on the fundamental Easter truth that changes everything and that explains who we are and where we are headed: “Christ, yesterday, today and forever!” On Easter Sunday the Church exults in the joyful proclamation that He is truly risen from the dead. God gave His Son to be the sacrifice that takes away our sins, and has raised Him up as the victor over sin and death, so together we cry out: **Alleluia!**

In a world filled with uncertainty, doubts and darkness, where bitter division appears to be getting the best of us, where, out of indifference to faith and worship, so many people are faced with inner spiritual and moral destitution, we have a duty to proclaim from the housetops: “Christ is Risen.” He is the answer to the deepest longings of the human heart, and he never abandons us. He is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life. As he told us: “No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Our mission is always to make the Gospel credible to others by loving God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for Him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

Along with you I look forward to the day when we can once again celebrate the Holy Eucharist and the other sacraments together. In the meantime, please be assured of my prayers with you and for you, especially for all those suffering grievously as a result of the pandemic. May the Risen Lord deliver us from all evil and bestow on us the peace and joy that only he can give.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford