

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KITUI



FROM BISHOP'S DESK

To all Christians of Kitui through the Parish Priests

My dear Christians,

“The Lord has truly Risen, Alleluia!!”

“Give thanks to Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting”. (Ps 106,1)

Today, I start this letter in the city of Rome, where I am attending the beatification of Pope John Paul II. I have come here representing each one of you in the diocese, and also representing the Church in Kenya together with the Cardinal and other four bishops. Today is a day of great joy as we witness the Church recognizing the sanctity of Pope John Paul II whom we loved so much! From now on we will call him Blessed John Paul II.

During these days, I have had many occasions to pray at his tomb and next to his Coffin, laid out in the Basilica of St Peter. I have asked him for many things for the Church, for our country, for many who do not know God yet, for the sick and elderly, but above all for our diocese, and for each one of you, priests and religious, women, men, youth and children.

His words soon after his election as Pope, seem to invite us all again: **“Do not be afraid!”**. **“Do not be afraid to open your doors to Christ!”** I invite you all, that with this great occasion of the beatification of Pope John Paul II we may all open our hearts more, and wider to Christ’s graces. He was a man of prayer, with great faith, immense Love for God and for all, one who taught us to live as Christians without fear, and also how to carry the cross of suffering when the Lord may send us one, with Love and without complaints.

“Do not be afraid to open your doors to Christ!” Do not be afraid to come back to the Lord, if you have strayed from his path. Do not be afraid to return to him, by renewing once again as all the priests did on Holy Thursday, your commitment to your priesthood, your Religious life, or your marriage commitments, or through receiving the sacrament of marriage. Do not be afraid as young people to struggle to live upright lives like John Paul II taught us in the world youth days. Do not be afraid to come as the prodigal son to our merciful Father, who once more will restore all the graces and honor of your Christian life: **“Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we will celebrate by having a feast...” (Luke 15, 22-24)**

We have seen in the Holy week the power of darkness, the sin in the world that has led our Lord Jesus Christ to be crucified. In today’s world we still see this power of darkness, in our evil actions and those of our brothers and sisters: lack of morals, infidelity in the families and in marriage, lies, dishonesty and corruption, immoral entertainment, ethnic hatred, lack of value for life in the sin of abortion etc. constantly repeated in the news.

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“So that we may be Holy”

Easter tells us Christ has conquered sin. Grace has overcome sin. In this period when we see the victory of Christ over death, we ask that the light of the Risen Lord may shine in the souls of all the Christians in Kitui. We are all asked to come and light our candles in the heart of Christ, the Easter candle; The Light that dispels darkness, so that each one of us can **become “the light of the world”** and dispel the darkness we see in today’s world.

On this Sunday of the Divine Mercy, let us all ask Our Lord, *“For the sake of His sorrowful passion, Have mercy on us and the whole world!”*

I invite each one of you to **“taste and see that the Lord is good”**, that He is merciful. In the coming year, I ask that all the priests in our diocese may make all the efforts to dispense this mercy of God of the sacrament of penance, which, Blessed John Paul II encouraged and received frequently. I ask the priests to make time for this sacrament every week so as to give our faithful time to kneel before the merciful Father. But especially, I ask you all, my dear sons and daughters, to make all the efforts to go to confession frequently, even when this will mean a big sacrifice for you. Let us use the prayers days for men, women, youth and children, and even of priests or religious, to organize with as many priests as possible for this sacrament of confession even at the parish levels. I also encourage that this year we try to include the building of a good confessional, or improving the present one as one of your parish projects or convent project.

“Do not be afraid!” “Do not be afraid to open your doors to Christ!”

“Let us then, have no fear in approaching the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace when we are in need of help” (Hebrews 4, 16)

Let us allow Christ to Rise again in our hearts, so that we can become the light of the world! We really must change our society, by becoming leaven and salt, by becoming more filled with the light and grace of Christ, by becoming true Christians, both night and day.

My dear young people, I challenge you to Rise and become light so that with Christ, we can change this world from darkness to light!

We have begun the month of May, which is the month of Mary. The Archangel Gabriel directed the words “do not be afraid” to her. She answered with faith and courage with a “Yes”, ***“Let it be done”***. Help us and teach us to be faithful without fear to come to our Lord and to do His will, even when we have gone far from him.

We tell her, ***“Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia!” “For the Lord has truly Risen alleluia!”*** We are assured of His mercy and graces! The Lord is waiting for us!

I impart on you all, my blessing.

Your loving shepherd,



✠ Anthony Muheria
Bishop of Kitui

1st May 2011, Feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday
Day of the Beatification of Blessed John Paul II

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