



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Bishop

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 40200
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200
www.dosp.org

Office:
6363 Ninth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710
727-341-6830
Fax: 722-345-3086

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God (Romans 15:7).

Jesus Christ our Savior profoundly welcomes us from the cross with open arms as we celebrate his greatest act of love in every Eucharist.

“**Welcoming You with Open Arms**” is a special initiative that invites each person to encounter the love and mercy of Jesus Christ and is connected to our diocesan vision, *Courageously Living the Gospel*.

Christ is calling us to reach out to those not currently attending Sunday Mass and invite them back. While our homebound population has increased during the pandemic, there are many healthy people who have not yet returned to Mass. These individuals and families need to hear a message of invitation and hope. They need a warm greeting at the door and a caring community attentive to their needs.

During our trials and difficulties, we are never alone. God is always with us, especially as we encounter the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, where he offers us abundant graces to heal the wounds of sin, division and fear.

I invite you to utilize the materials for the “**Welcoming You with Open Arms**” initiative at www.WelcomeOneAnother.org, as may be best for your parish. If you currently have a “welcome back” effort, perhaps these resources could be helpful in supplementing your plan.

By the grace of God, may we answer the call to welcome our brothers and sisters with open arms, just as Christ has so graciously welcomed us. May God bless you!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

