

THE DIOCESE OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS

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The Rt. Rev'd C. Leopold Friday, B.A., M.A.

Bishop's Easter Message 2017

We celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ once again, in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of life, with a sense of great hope and joy because of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

In the Diocese of the Windward Islands which consist of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and St. Lucia we continue to experience several challenges: the economic downturn continues to affect several sectors of the society and our political leaders have devised various means of addressing this. In some instances there are reports and forecasts of minimal growth in the economy but not as fast as many are hoping for. One can notice the increase in road side vendors, as employment becomes a scarce commodity and people strive to do something to provide and maintain themselves and their families.

There is also the issue of crime and violence which continues to be a major challenge for us, some of which are related to drug trafficking, and there seems to be an increasing inability to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner. The number of homicides in the past five years is also a matter of great concern. There is also concern with regard to health care and particularly non-communicable diseases which places a great burden on the economy of the state and families. In addition from time to time the subject of impropriety in public office; and generally in the society, raises its ugly head.

There is a sense in which we seek to address these concerns with what may be regarded as the myth of progress which has its deep roots in contemporary Western culture. It refers to the belief that human beings through the exercise of their mental faculties/intellect can devise programmes and projects which over time will produce improvement in human well-being and eventually lead to holistic development. Scientific and economic advances, and democratic

freedoms and wider education and major infrastructural development helped to promote this understanding, for it lead to a strong sense that history was quickly moving toward a delightful purpose. There is also the view which is held by many today that we can and will become what we have the potential to be by education and hard work.

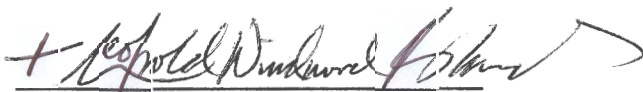
In spite of all the advancement in science, economics and education along with the sterling efforts of man, evil and sin continues to affect us. The challenges which are stated above are as a result of evil and sin. This is not to belittle the importance of the advancement in science, economics, education, major infra structural development, hard work and the sterling contribution of human beings, rather to make the point that none of these can rid the world of evil and sin. These will not bring about a new world in which there is peace, love, joy, and holistic human well-being.

Easter presents us with a vision of the Kingdom of God, Easter informs us that Jesus Christ is Lord and King and not Caesar. Easter reminds us that it is God who will transform the world, it is God who has the power to and who will establish a new world. The Easter message is one which emphasizes that God has overcome evil and sin. This is what the resurrection is about. Because of Easter, there is hope amidst the challenges that we face today. Due to the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ there is hope for a better today and tomorrow. For it is God, who will bring about a new world, where there will be peace, love, joy, and holistic human well-being.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed come let us adore him. Alleluia!

I take this opportunity on behalf of my wife Lois and three daughters, Marcella, Malaika and Mikayla to wish you a Blessed and Joyful Easter!

Your friend and Bishop

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Leopold Friday". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

The Rt. Rev'd C. Leopold Friday
Bishop of the Windward Islands