



VERITATIS SPLENDOR INSTITUTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

Perhaps there has never been a more important time in the Church than today. The call to proclaim the basic Christian message of salvation through Jesus Christ has a real sense of urgency. It has been proclaimed many times throughout history and now most recently by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. To experience the fruit of this message first begins by seeking a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ. Through this encounter, Jesus leads us to a greater understanding of the Paschal Mystery and then sends us into the world proclaiming the Good News with great joy and enthusiasm. This is clearly seen in how the disciples responded to the Resurrection and the Pentecost event in the early Church. They stepped out into what is called the New Evangelization. The call to us continues today!

Pope Francis, in his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* – “The Joy of the Gospel” spoke clearly of this invitation:

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.” (#3)

Therefore, embarking upon the work of the New Evangelization, it is with great joy that I invite you to consider our diocesan program of certification in catechesis. It is meant for all those who currently serve the Church as well as for those who want to grow in their faith and learn more about the teachings of the Church.

This program is called the *Veritatis Splendor Institute*, named for St. Pope John Paul II's great encyclical, *The Splendor of Truth*. The goal of the *Veritatis Splendor Institute* is the mission of the Church, that of proclaiming the Gospel to all people, and bringing people, “not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (St. Pope John Paul II, *On Catechesis in our Time* 5). Leading to certification, this program will provide courses of instruction in the content of the Faith and formation as disciples of Christ more deeply conformed to his Most Sacred Heart. It will give catechists and others who participate renewed confidence and zeal in teaching the Catholic faith.

I invite and encourage all who share in the mission of the Church to participate in the *Veritatis Splendor Institute*, that we may all grow in holiness, understanding, and joy as we go forth to share the great blessings of God so that all may know “the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, [and] be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:19).

Let us go forward in the love and joy of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Robert D. Gruss

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