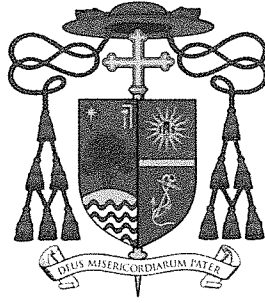


MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.  
BISHOP OF OAKLAND



2121 HARRISON STREET,  
OAKLAND, CA 94612  
510.267.8316

September 30, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we proclaimed, "the precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart!" My joy is overflowing today, as I greet you, for the first time, as the Parish of Divine Mercy.

Mercy is at the very core of what it means to be Catholic. And it will be, in a special way, at the center of who you are as a faith community. Wherever you hear the cry of the poor, you will respond. You will feed and clothe the hungry and naked. You will help those who are homeless, need a job, need legal papers or are fighting an addiction.

As catechists, you will teach children and young people who don't know the message of Jesus' mercy-filled Gospel. Your bereavement ministry will bring merciful comfort to those who mourn. Significantly, your prayer and worship, especially in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Novenas will move many hearts to a deeper understanding of God's eternal mercy. In the Sacrament of Confession, Jesus' love and mercy will overflow as He forgives your sins. In these and countless other ways, you will be living the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Thank you for your commitment to being a shining example of Divine Mercy for all. Although I cannot be with you in person, please know my heart and prayers are with you today in a special way. May God bless you with his most tender mercies.

With the assurances of my prayers and blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Michael Barber S.J.*

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.  
Bishop of Oakland

*For the greater glory of God*