

DIocese OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 11, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and well-being to you. I pray that your Lenten Journey finds you drawing nearer to Our Lord as we prepare ourselves to celebrate His Resurrection at Easter. Part of our Lenten observance, in the spirit of sacrifice and self-denial, is our abstinence from eating meat on all Fridays of Lent and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This law of abstinence applies to all of those 14 years of age and older.

Each year at some point during the 40 days of Lent we take time to celebrate a Solemnity in our Church, the highest-ranking Feast Day that celebrates a mystery of our faith. One such day is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which falls on March 19th. This day is made more meaningful for us this year as we continue to celebrate the Papal Year of St. Joseph in our Church.

As the Solemnity of St. Joseph occurs this year on a Friday, I wish to inform you that I am granting a dispensation from our Lenten abstinence from meat on this day. I invite you to enjoy a celebratory meal with your family and reflect once more on the importance of Saint Joseph, a gentle and steadfast father figure of our faith.

My continued prayers and blessings to you and your loved ones in this time of Lent.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alberto Rojas".

Most Rev. Alberto Rojas
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino

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