

**Easter Message From
Bishop Pierre-Olivier
Tremblay, o.m.i.**

**Run, again and
again... all the way
to the end!**



Dear brothers and sisters,

During this Easter season, the Gospel according to Saint John (20:1–9) sets us in motion. It tells us of a race — that of Peter and John towards the empty tomb. This race becomes a powerful spiritual image for us.

I have always loved the painting ‘*The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Tomb on the Morning*

of the Resurrection’ by Eugène Burnand (1898), in which we see John filled with great hope that comes from his faith and love, but also

Peter, who seems far more perplexed yet equally hopeful. I invite you to look it up online!

Both of them aptly represent what we too can experience. Questing, hope, the longing of the heart, a searching spirit, doubts, bursts of enthusiasm and hesitations all mingle in our journey. The apostles are like us. They are not distant heroes, but men on a journey.

Today, we are all called to run to the tomb. Let us not wait. It is now. The Risen Christ goes before us and draws us to him. He stirs within us that inner movement which urges us to seek further, to believe beyond what we see.

In this race, each of us moves at our own pace. Some run with confidence, others with hesitation. Some arrive first, others take the time to understand. But all are on the way. All are filled with a hope that is only waiting to grow.

We have not yet reached the goal; there is still a long way to go. We must work to find the means to persevere in our race, the race of our lives. To do this, I am convinced, we must nourish our hearts, feed our hope, hold our heads high and look further ahead. It is good to have questions and even doubts, but let us not allow them to paralyse us or lead us astray. May they lead us to seek even more and to go further!

At the end of the journey, Peter enters the tomb and sees. John sees and believes. Between the two lies an inner journey, that of faith which awakens little by little. And where are we in our quest? One thing is important: let us not walk this path alone, but let us move forward together, as a Church, with our brothers and sisters who share the same challenges as us. This is the strength of the community: it confirms us, encourages us, realigns us and lifts us up.

So let us continue to run, even when we are out of breath and feel the strain. The Lord walks with us and renews our strength. In his light, every step becomes a promise of life and joy.

A Happy Easter to each and every one of us. May the Risen Christ shine his light upon us. Let us go forward with confidence and courage, for the Risen One goes before us and awaits us at the end of our journey.

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