



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 9, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It has been a difficult few days. The news of Rev. Michel Bineen Mukad's death on Dec. 8 was heartbreaking. For more than three years, Father Mukad was a deeply devoted priest that was beloved by his parishioners, and his brother priests. He shared a commitment to the faith that was clear and unwavering. I greatly appreciated his commitment to serving our diocese with an open heart and willing hand.

It is with great sorrow that I must notify you that police have informed us Father Mukad ended his own life at the young age of 38. While we do not know the exact circumstances surrounding this tragic event, we do know that he struggled greatly due to the pandemic.

Like many of us, the isolation and anxiety of the modern world can be an unbearable challenge. For some people these feelings and the isolation they bring can become overwhelming.

I ask that each of you take time to call or message others in your immediate circle, and reach out to those who may have no family, or who are unable to be with family, especially during this holy month. We must take care of one another and also our own mental health. If you are struggling to cope, please reach out to a friend, a loved one, your pastor – someone to listen to you. You are not alone. There are many resources to help you through, and the Lord God cherishes you.

It is difficult to grasp that someone we know and love committed suicide. While the teaching of the Church states that suicide is not in conformity with God's will, we know that often the person who takes his or her own life has serious psychological issues, which will diminish moral responsibility.

Ultimately, we must pray for all the souls who have died and entrust them to the infinite mercy of God and his goodness. As our Lord told St. Faustina:

My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls ... [It] is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. (Diary, 367)

We trust in the gift of God's Divine Mercy that comes to us through the pierced Heart of Jesus, a devotion that was central to Father Mukad's spiritual life.

We commend Father Michel Bineen Mukad to the merciful embrace of Christ, and I ask each of you, in charity, to pray for his soul.

In the Lord's Peace,



Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, DD
Bishop of Charleston

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call one of the following immediately:

- Call 911
- [Disaster Distress Helpline](#): Call or text 1-800-985-5990 (presione 2 para español) to be connected with a trained counselor.
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for English or [Lifeline Crisis Chat](#).
- [Línea nacional de prevención del suicidio](#): 1-888-628-9454 para español.
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#): 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
- [National Child Abuse Hotline](#): 1-800-4AChild (1-800-422-4453) or text 1-800-422-4453
- [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#): 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or [Online Chat](#)
- [The Eldercare Locator](#): 1-800-677-1116 [TTY Instructions](#)
- [Veteran's Crisis Line](#): 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or [Crisis Chat](#) or text: 8388255