



N. 5013/16

23 March 2016

Your Excellency,

I have been requested by the Secretariat of State to convey the following message:

*The Most Reverend Brendan Leahy
Bishop of Limerick*

The Holy Father was pleased to be informed of the celebration of the Diocesan Synod and has asked me to assure the participants of his spiritual closeness during these days of community prayer, deliberation and discernment. His Holiness invites those present to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and his Church in the light of God's mercy: "the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness" (Misericordiae Vultus, 2). He trusts that all will be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit through personal and liturgical prayer to better discern God's will in the life of the local Church. With these sentiments and entrusting the people of the Diocese of Limerick to the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, His Holiness willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord.

*Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State*

With kind regards and prayerful good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Charles J. Brown

Archbishop Charles J. Brown
Apostolic Nuncio