



Beloved friends,
welcome to our land!

We are happy to welcome you to the Diocese of Conversano-Monopoli, a corner of Puglia that, in summer, fills with faces and languages from all over — and above all, with smiles. Your presence is a sign of communion and friendship for us, an opportunity to feel a little closer to one another, even though we come from different paths and stories.

In this summer time, when many seek rest, beauty, and a bit of serenity, you have arrived in a land that has much to offer... even to the heart!

This time of vacation, which we wish to be refreshing for you, comes at a special moment for the Church: the Jubilee of Hope, a time of grace in which we are all called to rediscover the roots of our faith and to let ourselves be bathed in Christian hope, which never let us down.

We all need hope, true hope, born from the encounter with God who, when we fall, lifts us up and, by helping us stand again, enables us to look forward. But hope also arises from the encounter with others, who become our companions on life's journey.

And what better place to be touched by hope than here, in our splendid land that renews heart, mind, and body! The diocese is a treasure chest of faith, history, and natural attractions. It welcomes you with the warmth of its communities and the wonderful places that characterize it: the stunning coast of Polignano, with its cliffs towering over the sea; the unique charm of the trulli of Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage site; the Castellana Caves, which tell millennia of beauty carved in stone; the historic center of Monopoli, made unique by its many churches that speak of faith and artistic dedication.

Then there are the hills of Noci, the lively spirit of Putignano, the hospitality of Cisternino, the countryside of Fasano with its vast olive groves, the flavors of Turi, and the traditions of Rutigliano. Not to forget the bright and intimate beauty of Conversano, a city of art and spirituality. Every place holds a soul and a story to discover and encounter.

But more than the monuments or the landscapes, I hope you can feel the warmth of our people, the sincere hospitality of those who live these places every day, and perhaps also let yourselves be touched by the silent beauty of an ancient church, a moment of prayer, or an unexpected encounter. The Lord does not take a holiday and awaits you here as well, among these sunny streets, amidst the scent of the sea and the life-filled horizon of the hills. The surprises of the Lord are astonishing.

Dear friends, on behalf of our entire Church of Conversano-Monopoli, I wish you a peaceful stay among us, refreshing to body and spirit, and unforgettable for the joy experienced through our Christian communities, especially encountered in the celebration of Sunday, the Lord's Day. Feel at home!

Upon you all, I invoke the blessing of the Lord.

+ *Giuseppe Favale*
bishop