

EASTER 2018

Let Us Celebrate with Faith the Resurrection of the Lord!

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our Lenten spiritual journey, comprised of reflection, prayer and works of charity, is nearing its goal: the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Easter is the feast of the victory of life over death, a victory which Christians have celebrated for 2000 years despite everything, even when darkness seems to prevail over light. It is not a feast of superficiality or thoughtlessness; rather, Christians acclaim the Risen Lord because they feel His living presence accompanying them on their journey. Easter is therefore not merely an event of the past but a dynamic force that is ever present in human history. It is therefore not merely an event to celebrate, but a reality to live.

Easter is the great occasion given to everyone to reflect upon his own baptism, and to rediscover afresh and with renewed joy the beauty of being a Christian - a new being in Christ - and to begin living with a fuller and livelier sense of responsibility. It is precisely through our baptism that we have been immersed into the Resurrection of Christ and have received the gift of new life obtained for us by the Lord Jesus through His death and resurrection.

Easter is a time to ask ourselves: Am I happy to be a Christian? What fruits does my faith produce in my own life and that of my family? How do I give expression to my faith? Does my manner of living correspond to my baptism that challenges me to be forgiving, to be generous, to be merciful, to participate regularly in the sacraments, especially the Sunday Eucharist? It is only when we are able to give a clear and honest answer to these questions that our celebration of Easter will be authentic.

Perhaps as you read this letter, many of you might be experiencing pain, suffering, illness and the bitterness of life. These are the hours of agony when, like Jesus on the cross, we cry out: “My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?” (Mark 15:34). But these are also times which, in union with Christ, bring about the world’s redemption. In times such as these, Jesus entrusted Himself to God in order to draw strength and comfort, and God heard Him. The same will be the case with us. Besides, God fills our existence with little joys of everyday life which are a prelude to the unending joy that He has prepared for us.

Together now, united in Him, we set out on 50 days of joyous Easter celebration – celebrating LIFE and self-giving LOVE. During these days, our FAITH in Jesus Christ can deepen, our HOPE in the fullness of life with Him can become ever more convinced, and our LOVE for one another, especially those in particular need, can increase!

HAPPY EASTER!

Fr. Charles Michael Grech ofm

Director for Radio Maria Canada