

*That Christ is risen changes everything.*

We are so accustomed to hearing of Jesus risen from the dead that we could say, “Oh yea...we know all about it” and miss the grace of this holy season of Easter. But think about it, Jesus rose from the dead! Death is not the end. It is only the door to beyond. Let us not allow the resurrection of Jesus to have to fight for room in our lives; let Jesus’ death and resurrection be the center of our lives. We had been waiting for this moment for thousands of years. The Old Testament shows us that history was working out God’s plan but the highpoint in God’s plan for us was the resurrection. Easter is the greatest celebration of the Church. Jesus’ resurrection reminds us that there is life beyond the grave. Jesus’ resurrection reminds us that there is more to each of us than meets the eye, that we have an immortal soul. Although our body will return to dust, our soul will live forever with God.

My brothers and sisters we live in this new order. It is the order of redemption, the order of grace, of saving grace. We are sharers in the new life of Christ given to us at our baptism. We stand within but apart from the world around us. We are the children of the resurrection. We are already partakers of heavenly glory. We have received the promise and live with a radiant hope in our hearts.

My brothers and sisters on this Easter let us look at our lives, our Church and our world in the light of the Risen Christ.

It is the great sadness and burden for the older generation of parents to see their children and their children’s children distanced from the faith. Even among committed Catholics there is a growing spiritual malaise. Participation in the life and mission of the Church is minimal.

We all bear this burden of the decline of the vibrancy of the life and mission of the Church. Yet, this Feast of Easter echoes hope and stirs our hearts to confidence.

From the sombre darkness of Good Friday, the radiance of new life sprang forth on Easter day. The darkness did not prevail. Now in our time and in our world, the darkness will not prevail.

Today let us sing of the triumph of Christ. Let us allow our hearts to sing. Let us lift our voices in bold proclamation: Christ has risen, Alleluia.

The ancient fathers of the Church rejoiced in the glory of the resurrection. So, with St John Chrysostom we boldly and joyfully declare:

O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen. Christ is risen and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen and life is freed. Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead: for Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

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