

EASTER 2020 - My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Alleluia! Jesus IS Risen! The Coronavirus CANNOT prevent Easter!!! All glory, praise, and honor to You, Most Glorious Lord Jesus! You have risen from the grave; You have conquered sin and death; You have opened the gates to Heaven! My Lord, HOPE is restored. JOY and EXCITEMENT are instilled in many hearts as You quietly, gently, and gloriously rise from the dead and bring forth NEW LIFE for this fallen world. Sweet Jesus, give me the eyes of faith that I may see and believe in Your Resurrection. Help me to know the effects of Your triumph in my life. Help all of us to trust in the abundant Mercy that flows from Your resurrected soul. May we all anticipate, with eager hope, the abundance of grace You wish to dispense. Jesus, I trust in You!

1 John 1:1-4 states: *"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete."*

Our current worldly situation is spiritually a little bit comparable to that of the disciples who were still fearfully gathered behind closed doors on Easter Sunday. But just as then, He enters into the midst of His faithful today and says to each one individually and to all of us: *"Peace be with you."* Then the Crucified and Risen Lord shows us His pierced hands and His side pierced by the lance. When those disciples had this encounter with Jesus, they rejoiced. May this also be the cause of the same reaction in each of our hearts today as it did then amongst those disciples whom Jesus Himself freed from their uncertainties and doubts: *"Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord."* (Jn 20:20).

On Holy Thursday, I watched for the first time an inspiring movie called "God's Not Dead." What a powerful and uplifting message for all of us to be assured of God's presence in our lives when we are willing to risk everything. If you have never seen this movie, maybe with the extra time you may have, watch it as a family. Near the end of the movie there was the encouragement to share the message with others that "God's Not Dead!" How appropriate at Easter for us as well to proclaim that God's Not Dead!

Alleluia! All glory, praise, and honor to You Most Glorious Lord Jesus! You have risen from the grave; You have conquered sin and death; You have opened the gates to Heaven! Alleluia! I pray that everyone of you is filled with the JOY of the Risen One, Jesus Christ. May you have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

In Christ,

Fr. Dan