



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF}MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR APRIL 8, 2018

Dear friends in the Risen Lord,

The Church knows how to celebrate! It fills the deep night of Holy Saturday with the Light of Christ that finally and utterly shatters the darkness. The great Easter Vigil is followed by Sunday after Sunday of reflections on the triumph of light over darkness and life over death.

In the morning on Easter Sunday we began a 50-day celebration of the presence of the Risen Lord among his stunned disciples. Their unapologetic proclamations become a lens that opens ever wider to let in ever more revealing light. The Church is mindful of the newly baptized as it calls us to remember our own baptism, our own passing from death to life in Christ. We are grateful for the story of Thomas, who is so like us; for the story of the great catch of fish and the command to “Feed my sheep”; for the command to “love one another;” and for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

It is well for us to remember that those who first heard the Easter proclamation were in exactly the same position relative to the risen Christ as we are. Their faith was based on the apostolic witnesses, who experienced Jesus as alive, and believed in him as Lord and Messiah. It is no more difficult or easy for us to make this the center of our lives than it was for those who first believed.

Whether the proclamation “Christ is risen!” is spoken in amazement in Aramaic or written with quills on vellum in Latin, or tapped out on a computer or in a tweet, the reality remains precisely the same: Our lives as baptized people must validate this proclamation. The life of Christ who is risen has been given to us. We must receive it wholly and live it daily. Wherever we find ourselves, there we are. And there is where salvation is possible. This was true yesterday; it is true today; and it will be true always.

We have 50 days to celebrate all of this. We have a lifetime to ponder it.

Easter peace!