

JESUS PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH HIS RESURRECTION WHICH WE COMMEMORATE ON EASTER.

The Resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith. The works, suffering, and death of Jesus would not have made sense to us or would have been meaningless to us if He failed to resurrect after His death. Before Jesus's death, He prophesied about His rising from the dead after three days when He told His listeners to destroy the temple, that is, His Body, and that He would raise it up in three days (John 2:19). Also, He told Mary, Lazarus' sister, that He was the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). If Jesus failed to rise from the dead, He would have been regarded as a liar or a deceiver. We would not have accepted His teachings and trusted Him the way we do. HIS RESURRECTION IS TRUE. There are pieces of evidence that proved His Resurrection. The empty tomb proved that He was no longer in the tomb. After the story of His Resurrection, no one has been able to provide us with His remains or scientifically proved without any reasonable doubt that any remains on earth belong to Jesus Christ. If Jesus did not resurrect, His Jewish enemies would have proved it with undeniable or undoubtable facts. The testimonies of Jesus' disciples about His Resurrection gave credence to our belief in His Resurrection. These disciples lived many years after the Resurrection and passed the information about Jesus's Resurrection to their families, friends, and listeners. About 500 people saw the Resurrected Jesus or had encounters with Him, and these people cannot lie and sustain the lie for over 2000 years. Great numbers of these people witnessed His death and after His Resurrection, saw Him or were present when He ate food that human beings eat. THE MESSAGE OF JESUS' RESURRECTION IS A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR US. "To believe in this wondrous Resurrection mystery gives us every reason to live in Hope of Eternal Life" (Fr Jerry). After the death of Jesus, some of His disciples thought that all hope was lost and decided to quit the new job or occupation which Jesus chose them to do. They returned to their old job or occupation which they were doing before they were called by Jesus. When these disciples saw the Resurrected Jesus, they regained their hope and were encouraged to keep answering Jesus' call. NO CONDITION ON THE EARTH IS PERMANENT. No matter how dark a tunnel is, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). The people that were so sad because of the suffering and the crucifixion of Jesus rejoiced after His Resurrection. There are moments of joy and sorrow or pain in our lives. In your moments of sorrow or pain always remember your past moments of joy and look forward to another moment of joy or happiness. I have never seen or heard about a person who has never experienced some moments of joy or happiness and pain. Our life on the earth is not a bed of roses. Whatever you are passing through right now or what is going on in our world today, do not lose hope, still, trust God who makes a way where there is none (Isaiah 43:16). Remember the prophecy of Ezekiel about the rising of the dead bones. Dead bones represent hopeless situations. God can fix any hopeless situation if He wants. Despite all the crises in the world, do not lose faith in God. God who allowed the crises for reasons known to Him will end them if He wants. **The only thing we can do is to pray, treat each other with love and make an extra effort to be happy.** THROUGH JESUS'S RESURRECTION, HE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE. As Christians, God wants us to pass from a life of hatred, jealousy, envy, selfishness, and so on to the life of love or the life of Christ. It would be great at the end of the day or week to ask ourselves about the things we did within the day or week that express love or show that we are faithful to God's commandments of love. In this period of Easter, may we

think more about God's unconditional love for us and limit the way we think about the crises in our lives and in the world. I WISH YOU A GRACE-FILLED EASTER.