

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE LORD IS RISEN. HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!



On this Brothers and sisters in the Resurrected Christ, after a period of forty days of Lent, here we are at the celebration of Easter, the Heart of Faith. I wish you all a Happy Easter to the entire parish family. It is a solemn feast that is renewed year after year. It is important for us to understand the true meaning of Easter. It is the Feast of the passage. **It reminds us that at the time of Moses, the Hebrew people were freed from slavery in Egypt. He "crossed" the red sea to gradually move towards the promised land. And on Easter morning, we celebrate Christ who has "passed" from death to life.**

Easter enlightens us on all these passages that mark our existence. The great passage of Jesus opens the path that will allow us to go further. Celebrating the resurrection of Christ, it is passing with Him from death to life, it is passing from the land of slavery to liberation and salvation. **Through our baptism, we are resurrected with Christ. With Him, we entered a new life, and nothing can separate us from His love.** So yes, we can sing Alleluia and give thanks to the Lord who works wonders. He is present with us every day and until the end of the world.

The four gospels tell us that these are women who were the first witnesses of the resurrection of Christ. Some may be asking why they are not the apostles. To understand this, we must return to the story of the Passion. When we are overwhelmed by misfortune, when we see all these wars and violence in the world, we have trouble recognizing the presence of the resurrected Christ.

For John, it's different: He sees, and he believes. This attitude comes from his enviable bond with Jesus. The Gospel designates him as being "the disciple whom Jesus loved". It is the love that binds him to Jesus that makes him run faster. It is through this love that he believes in the good news of the resurrected Jesus. It is very important for us. This gospel tells us how much love can stimulate our faith. Too often, we stay in discussions that never end. **The important thing is not to talk about Jesus but to have a real relationship with Him.** He loves us as we are, and He does not demand that we be present in our whole life. **Nothing from what we live can be foreign to Him. It happens to us to sing: "Tu es là au coeur de nos vies..." translated "You are here at the center of our lives."** The problem is that very often, we are elsewhere, far from him. But He does not stop calling us because He wants to associate us with this victory over death and sin.

This Easter Holy season will last 50 days. It is for us the opportunity to find courage, to let die what must die and to call to life what must live. **The resurrected Christ invites us to choose life and let us be invaded by the love of God.** This is how we can banish and eliminate the war, the violence, the hate, and let the contempt of others go away. Let us not fear the forces of evil and death. God raised Jesus from the dead and gave us the desire to live resurrected with him.

Happy and glorious Easter 2025 and May the Resurrected Christ open our eyes to see Him in each other.

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Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – April 20, 2025