

Dear Friends,

Today is Easter Sunday, the great Feast of the Lord's Resurrection. Rejoice and be glad for Christ is Risen. Spread the word: the Tomb is empty. He is not there. He has been raised and His victory over death is a victory for us; the powers of sin, darkness and death have been defeated! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is the most magnificent news ever, yet the world around us doesn't seem to know or care. Even in the best of times, secular media wouldn't be sharing this joyful news. They may mention certain individuals or groups celebrating a holiday called Easter, but not what Easter is all about. And now they are definitely focused elsewhere. But that's ok; it's not the media's responsibility to share the news of the Resurrection, it is ours; the ones who have experienced the Risen Lord in their lives.

The world is always in need of the message of Christ's victory; yet the need is greater today than it has been in a long time. In this time of fear, illness, and isolation, it is up to us to share with all those around us the news that Christ has conquered death; the worst that this world has to offer is now meaningless; those willing to share in His Cross will share in His Resurrection; those who die with Him will Rise with Him.

We are called to share this news not just with our words, but with our very lives. As His people, strengthened by His Grace, we are called to give witness to Resurrection Faith. In the face of the challenges of this world we are called to respond with trust in the Risen Lord; in the face of the despair of this world we are called to respond with hope; in the face of the sorrows of this world we are called to respond with joy; in the face of the hatred and indifference in this world we are called to respond with love. Ultimately that's the message we are called to share: God's generous, unshakable, eternal love for us. Even in our isolation, we are not alone. We are surrounded by God's love and are invited each day to be drawn closer to the Lord in that love. How do we know this? Haven't you heard the news? **THE TOMB WAS EMPTY!**

Let us draw strength today in the Lord who conquered death for us. We may not be able to celebrate as we usually do or to be with those we hold most dear, but I pray the Lord will make this a truly Blessed Easter for all of us. And don't forget, Christ is Risen!

You are all in my prayers on this joyous day; please pray for me.

In the Hope, Joy, & Peace of the Risen Lord, Fr. Caruso