

Dear Friends,

Today is Easter Monday and our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection continues with great rejoicing. This is the second day of the Octave of Easter. For eight days the church rejoices and celebrates as if it were still Easter Sunday. Easter Monday for me has always been a reminder of how our brothers and sisters in faith that came before us knew how to celebrate in their daily lives the Faith that was celebrated in church. There is a tradition to celebrate Easter Monday as a day of laughter and of practical jokes. This tradition developed because of the "practical joke" that God played on Satan. Satan, who on that first Good Friday thought he had won because God's Son had died, only to find out on Easter that his power was broken and destroyed once and for all. I once read a reflection on how God's laughter must have echoed through the universe that day over His "gotcha" on Satan.

This tradition of celebrating Easter Monday as a day of laughter may not be as popular as it once was, but if there ever was a time to bring it back, that time is now. In the face of all that we are confronted with right now, which ultimately is the work of Satan, I suggest we truly celebrate today with a sense of joy and laughter. I pray that our laughter unite us not just with each other but also with our loving God whose laughter marked the defeat of Satan and his power.

I pray that each of you may continue to find peace, joy, and hope in the Lord's Resurrection. Please pray for me.

In the Risen Lord, Fr. Caruso