

# PASCHA 2021

Spring 2021

Dear Friends,

What a long, strange year it has been. Certainly, we could not have imagined the breadth of experiences and challenges put before us since Pascha 2020. It is also doubtful we could have anticipated the unique journey each of us have been on and what unexpected gifts we may have received.

The COVID pandemic, racial conflict, social and political unrest and economic uncertainty along with devastating natural disasters, have forever affected how we look at the world and our place in it. For over a year we've had the opportunity to hone our skills as we observe, learn and experience hurdles this world faces. For most, the turmoil has challenged our norm, compelled us to explore and sometimes amend what we thought we knew. It stretched our ability to look inward, to sympathize with others, endure, take action, forgive, love and hope.

As we embrace Spring, as the Lenten season leads us to Pascha, the future seems brighter. Is that light we see at the end of the tunnel? COVID cases are inching downward and the development and distribution of the vaccine is on the rise. Yes! We can slowly exhale that breath that we've been holding. We can finally start to venture out of our cocoon of safety into the arms of loved ones and our community.

**But it won't be the same. How could it be? Why would we want it to be?**

There is no better time than now for us to take the extraordinary gifts we've collected and apply them to our new reality. The appreciation for family, friends, neighbors and even strangers is something that we will no longer take for granted. A handshake, a hug, a smile and so much more. We are all connected. The actions of one, ripples and reaches us all.

**Christ is Risen! Truly Risen!**

In celebration of Pascha or other religious observances, in memory or in honor of loved ones, friends and causes, as always, we welcome you to send us your requests for prayers. Let us lighten your burden by knowing we are praying with and for you. We are here for you.

In Christ's love,



Brother Christopher  
Prior, Monks of New Skete



Sister Cecelia  
Prioress, Nuns of New Skete