



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

APRIL 2025

Sir Knights,

This month we celebrate Easter, the day that, over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ arose from the dead after being nailed to a cross and suffering and dying for the sins of mankind. There were three crosses on that hill that Friday. What was it that gave validity to the life and words of the man on the center cross over the other two men? The resurrection.

That is what we celebrate at Easter: The resurrection of Christ. The fulfillment of God's promise to redeem mankind from the pit of sin that we had dug for ourselves. The resurrection is what separates Jesus from thousands of other gurus, prophets, false teachers, etc. that have come and gone. And it is what gives us our hope. A hope of forgiveness of our sins, and a hope of spending eternity with Christ in heaven.

I was going through some old pictures recently. In those pictures I saw that my hair was darker, my face looked considerably younger. Comparing those pictures with newer ones it was evident that I am aging. None of us can stop the fact that we are getting older and are marching toward the grave. The Bible tells us that there is "a time to be born and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes 3:2). And while it's true that our bodies will cease to function at some point, there is life beyond the grave. Because Christ died and rose, we have hope!

That is the essential message of Easter. The follower of Jesus does not have to fear death. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:20-21, "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man."

The phrase "firstfruits" speaks of the first installment of a harvest to eternal life. Christ's resurrection guarantees that all believers who have died will be resurrected as well. Jesus said, "Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19). Because Jesus rose, we too, will rise.

Easter is so much more than a day to remember; it is a day to celebrate our belief that anything is possible with God. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we are never the same. The Bible shows us the transformation of those first followers who witnessed the risen Lord. They couldn't go back to the way things were. They spent their lives spreading the message of Christ. And that transforming power has come down through the ages to you and me.

Because Jesus defeated death and gives us eternal life in heaven, we have true hope.
Because we have found a new life in Christ, we can rejoice through all things.

This Easter season, let us be people whose words and actions demonstrate our belief that Jesus is alive. And through our faith, we'll experience the eternal blessings of God's love for us.

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders

Grand Prelate