

April 3, 2010.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

***Our Lord is risen, alleluia, alleluia!!!***

Four months ago, just before Christmas, the sun began its return towards our half of the globe. The ancient celebrations of its return proclaimed hope, fruitfulness and life. We have Easter symbols of little chickens scratching their way out of eggshells. We have little baby rabbits hopping playfully around young children. We have Easter Flowers like trumpets sounding the victory hymns. The sun rose and by its light we see all things anew. Death has been conquered and life returns.

The Son of God rises and like the sun of the heavens, he springs into life, untombed himself, and said, "***Death is no more the ultimate human experience. The soul's winter is past. Come out and enjoy the Son's shining warmth.***"

The Easter Sunday Gospel opens with the darkness just before dawn; an artistic form for the writer of this account to symbolizes good things happen in the light and bad things occur in the dark.

Something really good is about to happen, but not quite just yet. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb while still in the dark but the dawning of the light is very near. She notices the stone having been rolled aside, but she is still in the dark about its true meaning.

She informs Peter and the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of her experience, as well as other disciples. They all run to the tomb with differing times in arrival. They are moving slowly into something dawning on them. Jesus is not there, but having some little evidence, ***they believe what they see and begin living what they believe.***

This is exactly how history becoming news, **Good News**. The disciples did not just sit down and try to figure this whole thing out. **They remembered, they believed and they left Jesus' tomb and began his resurrection in them.**

As followers of Jesus, we also believe that Jesus has risen and so have we. We have the obligation as the disciples to proclaim the Good News and to share the joy and triumph with the world.

During the 40 days of Lenten season that symbolizes the "darkest season" of the liturgical year, almost every one of us made an effort to **live Lent** in a special way while waiting for the dawn.

Most likely we gave something up for Lent. So, if we **could give something up** as a way to help us live the penitential season of Lent, why not **take something up** as a way to help us to live the joyful season of Easter?

In the Second Reading on Easter Sunday, St Paul encouraged and challenged us to "***set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.***"

Why don't we make **an Easter resolution** that will help us do that, that remind us the eternal life in Christ that is awaiting for us if we stay faithful to him, to bring dawn and light into our lives and others?

It could be something as simple as:

- like inviting a friend or family member who has forgotten about Christ's victory to come to Mass on Sundays and then inviting them over for brunch or lunch
- like watching a classic movie together as a family each Sunday between now and Pentecost - a joyful, uplifting movie
- like having a special outing or get-together with friends on sunny Fridays
- like taking some time each evening to re-read some of your favourite books, the ones that stir up joy in your soul
- like joining the CWL faith sharing group every Wednesday evenings to share the experience of resurrection in your lives,
- Like being a Knight of Columbus and if you already are, joining their Monthly Fraternal Breakfasts to strengthen our bodies and souls,
- Like being a liturgical minister to serve the faith community, to greet the congregation with your Easter sunny smiles or sounding the triumphant trumpet with your lovely voice
- Like volunteer in the Soup Kitchens on Fridays to cheer up those who are lonely and suffering
- And for the youth and teens, how about coming out for the youth activities such as Life Teens and Junior youth nights, a fun nights with your peers

If we ask the Holy Spirit to give us some ideas, he won't be stingy. He just needs us to decide to let Easter make a difference in our lives, to let it change the pattern of our lives, the way it should and hopefully, it will change the lives of others too.

The Church is a **wise mother** in giving us **six** weeks of Lent to give up but **eight** weeks of Easter to take up.

Raymond.



Our 1<sup>st</sup> outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday



Easter vigil - Baptism