



May the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord be with you!

Dear Sister

We speak of Easter joy as our joy, the understandable joy of being saved by His Grace. The living presence of the Risen Lord gives us the lasting peace and celestial joy in the face of the struggles, suffering, pain, and tensions of our day-to-day life. ***“Peace be with you!”*** was Jesus’ salutation to His disciples at all post-Resurrection appearances. If we are rooted and grounded in faith, every day will be an Easter Day filled with joy to live in the close company of the Risen Lord. Easter is a time of hope amidst hopelessness; a sign of joy amidst sadness; an act of mercy amidst the many forms of pain and discomfort, division and violence; an opportunity for peace in the middle of war, pain and death.

Easter is a serene and profound call to joy. It is a joy for the decisive victory of Christ over sin and death, joy for the world’s reconciliation with the Father and for the unity of mankind. The presence of the Risen Christ is a firm call to us for deep renewal in the Spirit. (Cardinal Eduardo Pironio)

In this season of Easter, we celebrate not only the mystery of Jesus's resurrection over death but we also celebrate how this miraculous event lives on into our own time. We learn from Jesus that new life can only come from death, and we can find meaning in tough times, and that there is real light in the darkness. We learn that all life has this rhythm of dying and rising and that God is with us in good and bad times. Christ's experience of suffering, death, and new life has forever changed us and given us a different way of living. Christian joy flows from accepting and living the paschal mystery.



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

John 14, 27

Like Jesus, we too are called to experience and share in His sufferings. Most of us may be expecting to have only the ***Easter experience***: the positive and pleasant moments of life . But we are called to experience and participate in the Paschal Mystery of Christ in our own personal way in our daily lives. As Jesus himself says , ***"If any one of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself , carry your cross, and follow me. "(Mathew 16.24) .***

How do I ***experience*** the Paschal Mystery?

How does it affect me on a day-to-day basis?

How do I become aware of its presence in my life in a real way?

As we journey through life we may often think of our lack of success, talents and skills and crisis of different forms, but soon we realise that God did not call us to be successful first; He first calls us to be faithful. We are called to be available and generous in our service to others



This does not mean that there will always be 'successful results' or what people would deem as one. We are called to make time for others, to accompany others on their journey and to share ourselves generously whenever we can. **Our God is not the God of grades. Rather, He is the God of Graces.** All the crisis however painful it may be, allows us to

move towards profound transformation which gives us immense joy. Only if we die to ourselves can we live for Christ and others and be a true follower of the Risen Lord .

The Resurrection confirms this process. Jesus' story does not end in crucifixion. God raises Him up. Death yields new life, the new creation. Ilia Delio writes, "In the Resurrection, Jesus...lives in a radically transformed mode in the presence of God for eternity. What happens in Jesus, therefore, anticipates the future of humanity and of the cosmos...its radical transformation through the power of God's life-giving Spirit."

The resurrection does not wipe out Mary's memory of the passion, rather it completes her experience, her past pain becomes an integral part of her present joy. The joy of the Risen Lord reminds us that those who believe in Him are never alone. We too will be filled with the real and everlasting joy of eternal life when we place our complete trust in Him.

We are reminded again of all that Christ has done for us and how dependant we are upon His redeeming grace. There is no one among us, in any walk of life who does not need hope and seek for greater joy in life. Hope is extended to every contrite heart and joy

comes to all those who are meek and are ready to know, trust and follow Him.

In Japan, there is a Japanese art known as *Kintsukuroi* which involves mending broken pottery using gold. One would then be able to clearly see the 'flaw' or original crack in the repaired object as a result of the very striking and visible gold lining. However, this 'flaw' is seen as a unique piece of the object's history, rather than something to be disguised, which in turn **adds to its beauty**.



This is very similar to our own brokenness which we experience in our lives too. They form part of the who we are ready to be '**repaired**' and **healed**. Only by being first broken would we be more receptive to being filled with God's grace and to live as His children of light .

(Leonard Mah, SJ)

Jesus has Risen; truly Risen. As St. John Paul II said: '***Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song***'.

May the Easter Message of God's abiding love fill our hearts with God's blessings as well as with His joy and love shining from His Resurrection.

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