

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

## Happy Easter!

Remember that Easter is NOT about the bunny, it's about the Lamb! This is the heart of our Faith, the most important celebration we have – the Resurrection of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

It is so easy to forget the love God has for us. In our busy, hectic lives, God may seem distant. When troubles plague us, we may feel that God doesn't care about our puny little problems. Nothing could be further from the truth, as this celebration highlights. God DOES care about us.

From the beginning, we have rejected God. We reject God as a people, as a culture, and individually... not once, but over and over and over again. Think about it – God wants us to become our best selves – to become who we were meant to be. How many times a day do we reject this plan?! We know we need to exercise, but we choose the couch and the TV (and/or the computer, smart phone, video games, etc.). We know we need to eat well so we can be healthy, but those chocolate bunnies call to us... and the jellybeans, and the ice cream, and, and, and .... We know we need to be kinder to the people around us, yet we fail so often to help those in need – right in our own homes – or we have a little verbal “jab” when we feel threatened in any way (like when our rest is being endangered by the garbage or the dishes!). We reject God's beautiful plan for us, for our wellbeing, and so we reject God in hundreds of small – and sometimes not so small – ways. We call this “sin.”

The human way of reacting to rejection would be to get sick and tired of it, and reject the rejecter. Yet God NEVER does this! He never tires of calling us back to His Heart, even after we have ignored Him or outright rejected Him over and over and over again. The Cross – His horrific death that He underwent – was *His greatest sign of love*. He showed us that we could do *anything to Him*, and He would still be ready to accept us back, if we but repent.

Think about that. What is the worst thing you have ever done? What is the worst thing you have ever *thought*? God knows it all. He feels deep in His Heart the worst pain of rejection, denial, betrayal that we have ever done to Him, yet He forgives us.

**THIS IS THE RESURRECTION!** Easter is not just a celebration of a past event of what God did (as wonderful as it was), but a celebration of how He *continues to resurrect US each day!* Listen to these first words of the Risen Christ:

**Do not be afraid.** (Matthew 28: 10)

He says this to us! Do not be afraid to come to Him, no matter how long you have been away, no matter how badly you have sinned, not matter how many times you have rejected Him, abandoned Him, betrayed Him. Do not be afraid that He will ask too much of you – He asks the impossible (Resurrection is impossible, after all), but *He Himself provides the way to accomplish the impossible task!* Run to Jesus! DO NOT BE AFRAID!

My sisters and brothers, may you be filled with the true joy of knowing Jesus' ever-present love and mercy in this holy season. May you know, deep in your heart and soul, that He calls you to Resurrection, and may you never cower from this new life, but accept it, and all of His immense love, with open arms!