

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

A Meditation for Easter Sunday

On the third day he rose again... Today, together with the whole Church, we repeat these words with particular emotion. We repeat them with the same faith with which they were pronounced the first time. We utter them with the same certainty that was put into the sentence by the eyewitnesses of the event. On the third day he rose again...

This is the truth, upon which, as upon a cornerstone, is based the whole construction of our faith; today we wish to share it among ourselves as fullness of the Gospel, we confessors of Christ, we Christians, we the Church.

How can we not rejoice at the victory of this Christ, who went about the world doing good to all and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, in which the fullness of God's redemptive goodness is expressed? In it, man has been called to the greatest of dignity. How can we not rejoice at the *victory* of him, who was so unjustly condemned to the most terrible suffering and death on the Cross. At the victory of Him who was first scourged, buffeted, covered with spittle, with so much human cruelty.

Behold the day of universal hope. The day on which all human sufferings, disappointments, humiliations, crosses, violated human dignity, disrespected human life, all are gathered up and associated with the Risen One, and loudly cry out, "To the Paschal Victim, let sacrifice of praise be raised today!" The Risen One does not depart from us. The Risen One returns to us... "Peace to you." How necessary his presence is for the world... the order coming from His Commandment of Love, that individuals, families, nations, continents, may enjoy peace.

--From the Prayers and Devotions of Pope Saint John Paul II

An Easter Prayer

Lord, you have passed over into new life, and you now invite us to pass over also. In these past days we have grieved at your suffering and mourned at your death. We have given ourselves over to repentance and prayer, to abstinence and gravity. Now at Easter you tell us that we have died to sin. Yet, if this be true, how can we remain on earth? How can we pass over to your risen life, while we are still in this world? Will we not be just as meddlesome, just as lazy, just as selfish as before? Will we not still be bad-tempered and stubborn, enmeshed in all the vices of the past? We pray that as we pass over to you, our faces will never look back. Instead, let us, like you, make heaven on earth. Amen.

--Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

