

Sir Knights,

April is upon us, and spring has begun. Seeing the beauty of creation come to life following winter is always a good thing. The blooming flowers and leaves, along with the warmer weather, is a wonderful thing.

April also brings us the joyous Easter celebration. Easter represents Jesus' victory over death. The glorious resurrection is proof that he is the Son of God, and that we now have hope of spending eternity with him.

Easter is more than a day to remember and celebrate. It is an opportunity for us to fully see that anything is possible with God. Following the ruthless and unjust persecution and crucifixion, where Jesus paid the price for all of us to be redeemed, he arose from the grave, and thereby gave hope to all mankind.

We see this hope played out in the transformation in the lives of those Jesus appeared to on the first Easter. They were never the same after that. They could never go back to the way things were. The resurrection changes everything. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:17 that "if Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain..." But since Christ has been raised, we—like those first disciples—have hope, and we have it abundantly.

As Knights Templars, and believers in Christ, we are not meant to keep this good news to ourselves. We have a duty to go out and share the love of Christ with the world around us through our words and actions. We are called to tell others about God's great love for us. Paul ends 1 Corinthians 15 saying, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58)

Because Christ is risen, we have hope, and we have a purpose. Do not forget that the resurrection of Christ changes everything. During this season, I encourage you to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and reflect on the sacrifice he made on the cross. And let us be people whose words and actions demonstrate our belief that Jesus is alive. And through our faith, we will experience the eternal blessings of God's love for us.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate