



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

MARCH 2024

March is here, and this year that brings us two things to celebrate. First, the arrival of Spring: That wonderful time of the year that makes us think of new beginnings, when we move from cold winter days to warm days full of sunshine.

This year, March also brings us Easter, when we remember Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday, then we celebrate his glorious resurrection and victory over death on Easter Sunday.

Easter is more than a day to remember; it's a day to celebrate our belief that anything is possible with God. Once we see Jesus for who He is — the Son of God who died for our sin and rose from the grave — we are never the same.

In the Bible, we see this transforming power in those Jesus appeared to on the first Easter. The people who saw Jesus after the resurrection couldn't go back to the way things were. They wrote the gospels. They started the church, spending their lives spreading the message that Jesus is alive. Their belief that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the grave changed them forever.

The same should be true for us. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 tells us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

This Easter Sunday let's be people whose words and actions demonstrate our belief that Jesus is alive. And through our faith, we'll experience the eternal blessings of God's love for us.

As spring starts to surface and the trees begin to bloom, we can see God's reminder to align our hearts to the new thing He's doing. Let us embrace all the "new" he has in store for us. We can hold firm to the hope and the promise of spring because He has risen. we can see that we do not serve a capricious God. We instead serve a firm foundation, an ever-present hope, a promise keeper of a Father who keeps every promise given to us. He kept His promise in the rising of Christ, and He keeps His promise to us as every winter must set so that spring will inevitably rise. Let us rejoice in the coming spring even before it arrives, for the One Who promises such a spring is worthy of our trust. Happy Easter!

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate