

14 April 2022
Holy Thursday

Dear Friends,

This evening we enter into the Sacred Paschal Triduum, the holy three-day period of celebrating Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Sunday). In just a few days, we will be able to joyfully proclaim once again: *Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!*

What a great joy it is to celebrate Easter once again with you all! This is the third Easter since I arrived at Mary, Queen of Peace—but my first one in which we will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil, with three Elect (those being Baptized) and three Candidates (those who have already been Baptized) joining the Church. Please join me in congratulating and praying for Bobby, Gwen, Rona, Sandy, Pilar, and Elizabeth!

In my first two Easter letters, I reflected on things like quarantining and then coming out of quarantine. This year, things are much more open, yet we find that there is still so much in our world that needs the healing presence of the Risen Jesus. When we read about these difficult or challenging things, or experience them in our own lives, we can feel much like the disciples did on that first Easter morning. That is, we might be focusing a lot on what looks like evil, sin, and death in our world. However, that's when those words that we hear from the angels at the Tomb are so important and powerful:

“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.” (Luke 24:5-6)

It's a reminder that there's never a time when we aren't in need of our Risen Jesus who has conquered evil, sin, and death for us. Easter morning is a reminder to us to look for the Risen Jesus in the world. To take our focus off of death—which has been conquered—and place it on resurrection—which is an eternal gift Jesus offers to you, me, and all people. The more we focus on resurrection, the better we'll be at bringing the Risen Jesus to the world through our own thoughts, words, and actions.

On this Easter Sunday, and throughout these seven weeks of the Easter Season, let's commit to being more and more like the Risen Jesus. That is, bringing the Risen Jesus to the world through our thoughts, words, and actions. *Alleluia!*

Happy Easter to you and your loved ones!

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us! *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Fr. Chad Green