

## Easter Message to Our Parish Family

My Dear Parish Family,

A joyful and blessed Easter to you and your families!

On this beautiful holy day, we gather as a community of faith to celebrate the greatest mystery at the heart of our Christian life: the Resurrection of our Lord. Easter proclaims the wonderful truth that Jesus Christ, who suffered, died, and was buried, has risen from the dead. The stone has been rolled away, the tomb is empty, and the promise of God's saving love has been fulfilled. Because Christ is risen, hope is alive in our world.

Throughout the season of Lent, we walked together on a journey of prayer, fasting, and charity. These forty days invited us to look more deeply into our hearts, to turn away from sin, and to renew our relationship with God. We reflected on the sacrifices of Christ and prepared ourselves spiritually for this moment of great joy. Now, as we celebrate Easter, we rejoice in the victory of life over death, light over darkness, and love over sin.

The Resurrection of Jesus reminds us that God is always bringing new life out of situations that may seem hopeless. In our world today, many people carry heavy burdens—concerns about family, health, finances, or the uncertainties of life. At times we may feel discouraged or overwhelmed. Yet Easter reminds us that, even in the darkest moments, God is present and working to bring about something new.

The disciples themselves experienced this transformation. On Good Friday, they were filled with fear, sadness, and confusion. Their hopes seemed to have been shattered. But on Easter morning everything changed. The risen Christ appeared to them and filled their hearts with courage and joy. What once seemed like defeat became the beginning of a new mission to share the Good News with the whole world.

There is a simple story that beautifully illustrates the meaning of Easter:

A teacher once brought a small plant into the classroom and showed it to the students. It looked dry and lifeless, with nothing but a small bulb beneath the soil. The teacher asked the students what they thought would happen if the bulb were planted in the ground. Some of them said nothing would happen because it looked too dry and dead.

Nevertheless, the teacher planted the bulb in a small pot and watered it regularly. For several days, nothing seemed to change. The soil looked exactly the same, and the students thought the teacher had wasted time.

But one morning, a tiny green shoot appeared above the soil. Day by day it grew stronger, until eventually it blossomed into a beautiful flower. The students were amazed. What once looked lifeless had become something vibrant and full of beauty. The teacher then explained an important lesson: life was always present within the bulb, even when it could not be seen. It simply needed time, care, and the right conditions to grow.

In many ways, the story of that small bulb reflects the message of Easter. On Good Friday Jesus was placed in the tomb and everything seemed lost. But God was already at work. On Easter morning the power of divine life burst forth in the Resurrection.

In our own lives, we sometimes experience moments that feel like Good Friday moments—times of disappointment, struggle, grief, or uncertainty. During those moments, we may not immediately see God's plan. Yet the message of Easter reminds us that God is always working quietly and faithfully, bringing new life even when we cannot yet see it.

As followers of Christ, we are called not only to celebrate the Resurrection but also to live as people of the Resurrection. The risen Lord invites us to carry His light into the world. Each of us becomes a witness of Easter when we choose love over anger, forgiveness over resentment, generosity over selfishness, and hope over despair.

In our families, living the message of Easter means nurturing patience, understanding, and kindness with one another. In our parish community, it means strengthening the bonds of unity, welcoming others with open hearts, and supporting those who are in need. In our wider society, it means being people who bring encouragement, compassion, and peace wherever we go.

Our parish is a beautiful sign of this Easter hope. I am deeply grateful for each member of this community. Your faith, prayers, and generosity help make our parish a place where the love of Christ is alive and active. I would especially like to thank those who serve in ministries, volunteer their time, support the needs of the parish, and contribute to building a welcoming and vibrant community of faith.

The Resurrection also reminds us that our journey of faith continues beyond this day. Easter is not only a single celebration but the beginning of a season of renewed faith and joy. The risen Christ continues to walk with us, strengthening us through the sacraments, guiding us through His word, and calling us to grow ever deeper in our relationship with Him.

As we celebrate this holy season, may we open our hearts more fully to the presence of the risen Lord. May His victory over death renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and inspire us to love one another more deeply.

May the joy of Easter fill your homes with peace and happiness. May the light of the risen Christ guide you in every step of your life. And may we continue, together as a parish family, to grow in faith, unity, and service.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

With prayers and blessings,



Fr. Zaldy B. Norba, sss

