



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter to you and your families! Thank you for your love for the inspired Word of God. Thank you for your love for the Resurrection appearances of our Lord in this Easter season and the way your lives are set on fire in your meditation and contemplation of these mysteries.

Thank you for your fidelity to the Eucharist and the Sunday Mass and your Catholic spirit of evangelization. Thank you for being instruments of Eucharistic Revival.

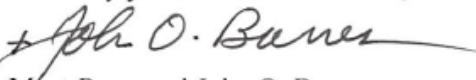
In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis states: “Christ’s resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated the world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force...Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history...Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelize are instruments of that power.” (276)

We continue to live through “the storms of history” and we rely on the Risen Lord and his glorified wounds to touch the wounds in Ukraine, the Middle East, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the region of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and Sudan, as well as Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and so many other troubled areas of the world.¹ We ask the Risen Lord and his glorified wounds to touch the wounds experienced in our own country.

In *The Everlasting Man*, G.K. Chesterton captured the power of our Lord’s Resurrection experienced in the cycles of history. He wrote: “Christendom has had a series of revolutions and in each one of them Christianity has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.”

This Easter and every Easter we celebrate this Everlasting Man who knew his way out of the grave and who invites us and the Catholic Church on Long Island to a great Resurrection.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Diocese of Rockville Centre

¹ See Pope Francis’ December 25, 2023 *Urbi et Orbi* Message.



HE IS RISEN

JESUS, OUR RISEN SAVIOR,
ALL GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU,
FOR YOU BRING LIGHT TO OUR DARKNESS,
JOY TO OUR SORROW AND
FULLNESS OF LOVE TO OUR HEARTS.

ON THIS RESURRECTION DAY,
WE ASK YOU TO RENEW OUR HEARTS, MINDS AND BODIES
WITH THE NEW JOY OF THIS EASTER SEASON.
GUIDE US TO KEEP FOCUSED ON YOUR HOLY WORD
THAT IS ALL ENCOMPASSING AND PURE.

ALLOW US TO BE A REFLECTION OF YOUR PEACE
AND ENLIGHTENMENT TO THIS WORLD
WHICH SO DESPERATELY NEEDS YOUR ETERNAL PRESENCE.

He Is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Mass Intentions**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024** *Matthew 28:8-15*

8:30am Eduardo Dolosa

12:10pm Private Intention

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 *John 20:11-18*

8:30am Anna Glorioso

12:10pm Lorna Sambat

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024 *Luke 24:13-35*

12:10pm Rita Whalen

Domenico DiBiase (2nd Anniversary in Heaven)

7:30pm Private Intention

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 *Luke 24:35-48*

8:30am Private Intention

12:10pm Private Intention

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 *John 21:1-14*

8:30am Richard Gotthard

12:10pm Romeo Ferrante

James & Helen Quinn

Jose Moran & Hilda Santa Cruz

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 *Mark 16:9-15*

8:30am Jaime Espocia

5:00pm John Adinolfi

Angela Badamo

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 *John 20:19-31**Divine Mercy Sunday*

7:45am Anna & Michael Apollo (Living)

Katherine Castro

9:00am Michael Abiuso & Antonio Passarelli

Mary Lynn DeVito

Judi Lucks

Lenore Marie Calabrese

11:00am Parishioners of Holy Name of Mary

Robert McKenna

Martha Roche

1:00pm Maria Del Carmen Mateo

Rosita Brown (Living-Happy Birthday)

Gloria Perez (30th Anniversary in Heaven)

5:00pm Special Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday

Next Sunday's Liturgy—April 7**Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday****1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35**

The unity of the early church was manifest in heart, mind, spirit—and resources.

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 God's mercy has no bounds, and God's love is without end.

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-6 The children of God, like Jesus himself, must pass through signs of water and blood.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 The marks of the nails mean more to Thomas than the memory of Jesus and his example

FOCUS: We are called to live out God's mercy.

In today's Gospel, Jesus confers his divine power to forgive sins on the Apostles through the Holy Spirit. This forgiveness is still available to us in the sacraments. The gift of God's mercy calls us to also perform acts of mercy to ensure that, as in the earliest communities of believers, no one among us is in need.

Almighty and eternal God, protect the men and women who serve in our military. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. Amen.

*Eucharistic Adoration*

You are invited to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday following the 12:10pm Mass, until 6pm; and every Saturday from 7pm - 8pm.

*Priest Schedule of Masses***Saturday, April 6, 2024**

5:00 pm Fr. David Regan

Sunday, April 7, 2024

7:45 am Fr. Map

9:00 am Fr. Mike Lombardi

11:00 am Fr. David Regan

1:00 pm Fr. Roger Velasquez

*Presider
Subject
To
change*



...Fr. David Regan

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages." (St. John Chrysostom, *Easter Homily*)

We have journeyed through a very lenty-Lent. Lent is that precious moment in which the weapons of self-restraint (Prayer, fasting and almsgiving) have propelled us to ache for the consolation of a heart-to-heart relationship with the Triune God and our neighbor. Prayer has put us in an honest and authentic gazing glance of a God who is constantly knowing us and loving us. That gazing glance pierces the heart and makes us run to an even deeper and fulfilling embrace in the Eucharist for strength and Confession for healing and forgiveness.

If we have fasted properly and courageously our conclusion has demonstrated that our true comfort and consolation will be from the "Bread from on high" and the consoling hug of the heavenly host in heaven. Fasting empowered us to hunger for the things of heaven since "Our hearts will not rest until they rest in Him!"

Our almsgiving has put us into a proper relationship with our neighbor. Ephesians 2:19 states that "...you are no longer strangers or people far away. But you live with God's people and belong to God's family." Through the act of humility of people in need and the charitable act of almsgiving we truly become brothers and sisters in a family built upon common longings and virtues. Our Lenten disciplines and the personal closeness that was demonstrated through the Triduum we come to our celebration today. **TODAY IS EASTER!**

Today demonstrated that the personal God who became incarnate, born, cared for his mother, learned from St. Joseph the dignity of work, healed and ministered in three years of public ministry, healed, raised the dead, offered Himself on the Cross and today is resurrected, has a unique, unyielding and passionate love for you. The Resurrection accounts show that the followers, though they may not

understand the total significance of the events, are allowing themselves to become something new. The days of Easter lead us to follow the apostles and disciples as they are joyfully accepting the saturating grace. As the Resurrection of Jesus is something new in the course of human and cosmic history it leads to the followers living as if they are new because they are made anew.

The stone has been rolled back and the narrative takes on a fulfilling meaning. Ezekiel 36:26 states that "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Jesus has moved the stone from our hearts in the most beautiful and wonderful way. What now?

The truth of the Easter narrative was enfleshed in the world by those who accepted that God's way is better, Jesus has a passionate love for us and that if its all real than we need to change. It is very real!

Now what? Are you loved? YES, then live as if you are loved. Are you forgiven and healed? Then live as if you were forgiven and healed! Are you made anew? Then live it!

"The Cross had asked the questions; the Resurrection had answered them...The Cross had asked: "Why does God permit evil and sin to nail Justice to a tree?" The Resurrection answered: "That sin, having done its worst, might exhaust itself and this be overcome by Love that is stronger than either sin or death." (Archbishop Fulton Sheen, *Lent and Easter Wisdom*, 110)

Ultimately, Easter has revealed a wonderful truth. Love is more powerful than hurt, love is more powerful than sickness including covid-19, love is more powerful than sin and, in the end, Love is more powerful than death. Humanity waited for that answer from God and humanity has heard it loud and clear. Now the question is how are we going to live anew, as if we are loved and as if we are healed, redeemed and forgiven? The story continues in a very real way and will only become more beautiful and adventurous as we participate in God's saving plan for us and all those around us...

Blessed Easter!

The Solemnity of Divine Mercy

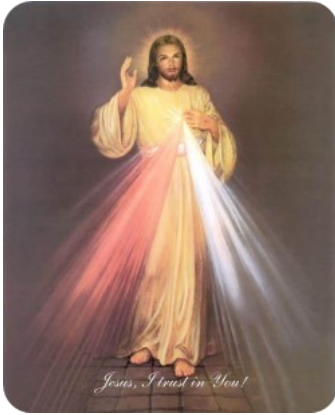
*Sunday, April 7th is the **Solemnity of Divine Mercy**. The parish of Holy Name of Mary cordially invites you to join us for an afternoon of Divine Mercy. It will be a beautiful time with the Lord, filled with **adoration**, **worship** and **contemplative music**. Selected excerpts from the Diary of St. Faustina will be read intermittently throughout the afternoon, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.*



We cordially invite you to join us for an afternoon of quiet refuge and private prayer, as you deepen your faith and immerse yourself in the love and mercy of Jesus.

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7th from 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
at Holy Name of Mary Parish, 55 E. Jamaica Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580.

A 5:00 pm Mass has been added to Sunday, April 7th.



On April 7th 2024, which is the first Sunday after Easter, we will celebrate one of the most glorious Feast days that the Catholic Church has ever given the world, ***The Feast of Divine Mercy***. While God's infinite mercy emanates all the way back, from the time of our first parents in the Garden of Eden, the message of what we call Divine Mercy begins in the early 20th century with a young Polish nun by the name of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, Sister Faustina received a special calling from Jesus. One night, in February of 1931, while she was in her cell, Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy." He appeared to her dressed in a white garment from which emanated red and clear pale rays from his Sacred Heart. And over the next four years He would continue to appear and speak to her about His mission of Divine mercy for the world.

Her mystical encounter with Jesus, and the words He shared with her can be found in her personal diary, known as ***Diary, Divine Mercy in My Soul***. It not only chronicles her own experience of Divine Mercy, but also Jesus's desire and mission of mercy for the whole world. And in doing so, Jesus chose St. Faustina as the Apostle and "Secretary" of His Mercy, so that she could tell the world about His great message. Among the many revelations Jesus divulged to her was that of creating a painted image. Jesus told her:

*"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: **"Jesus I trust in You"**. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world."* (Diary 47) *"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as My own glory."* (Diary 48)

In addition to this image, Jesus also requested that a special feast, devoted to his Divine Mercy be established during the octave of Easter (the second Sunday of Easter), a day in which he would pour special graces out on the whole world. Jesus grants an indulgence (either full or partial remission for the temporal punishment of sin) for all who will participate in this feast and implore his Divine Mercy.

"Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 300) *"This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies."* (Diary 420)

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

This Feast Day became a reality thanks to the efforts of Pope John Paul II. On Sunday April 30, 2000, he not only canonized Sister Faustina, but he also approved the message of Divine Mercy by declaring the Second Sunday of Easter as ***"Divine Mercy Sunday"*** for the universal Church. As a result of all of his hard work and dedication to Divine Mercy, as well as ensuring its fruition in the world, is it any wonder that when he died, that his death coincided with the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday. And if that wasn't enough, he was also canonized by Pope Francis on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Today, we ask though the intercession of Jesus, as well as through the intercession of Pope St. John Paul II, for the unimaginable graces of Divine Mercy Sunday to be obtained and poured out upon our Church, our nation and every soul throughout the world.





The Eucharist In Scripture **HNM Bible Study-Spring 2024**

Join us as we explore the theme of shared meals
in the Old and New Testaments
culminating with the institution of the
Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Beginning Wednesday, April 10, 2024
7:15pm in the Convent, Room 1

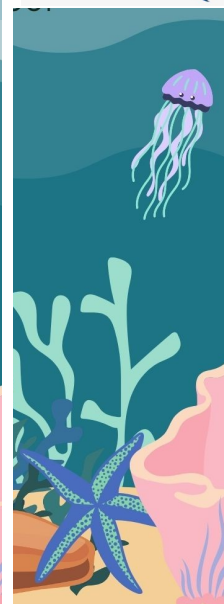
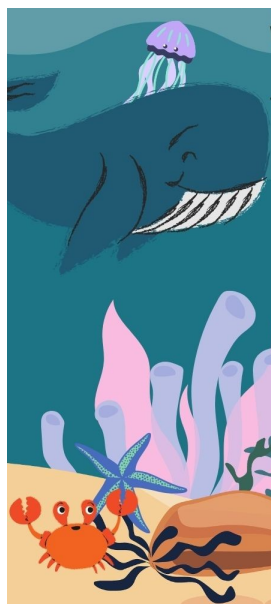
-or-

Thursday, April 11, 2024
9:45am in Parish Outreach, 2nd Fl.

Fee of \$15.00 covers the cost of the book.
Any questions, please call: Deacon Clyde (516-791-9509)
or Barbara Clarke (516-872-8415)



Holy Name of Mary School invites you
to our production of...
Finding Nemo, Jr.



Where: Holy Name of Mary School
When: April 12th 7:00 p.m.
April 13th 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$10.00 each

For more information,
Please contact Mrs. Powell
(516) 825 - 4009
cpowell5578ehnomschool.org



MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

*One of the greatest gifts God can give us
is the gift of someone who cares.*

The Ministry of Consolation is an opportunity for all of us to show care and concern to families in our parish when they lose a loved one. By being a community of faith and demonstrating our support, we can directly bring comfort and power of the Gospel to hurting people at a time when it is really necessary. Through the **Ministry of Consolation**, priests, staff and parishioners are working together to make the funeral experience warmer and more meaningful.

There are roles for anyone who wishes to be involved - no matter how much time you have to give. Information and instructions will be given to volunteers, and training will be provided when needed. Currently there are 3 teams of volunteers, and the teams rotate, so all members do not attend all parish funerals. Specific needs include:

- _____ **Attend parish funerals** - with other Ministry of Consolation members - several times per month
- _____ **Greeter** - welcomes people and distributes funeral booklets at parish funerals - several times per month
- _____ **Lector at funerals** - occasionally; training provided if you are not currently a lector
- _____ **Eucharistic Minister at funerals** - once or more per month (indicate if you are currently an EM)
- _____ **Phone calls** - to assign volunteers

TO VOLUNTEER: Return this form to: Parish Outreach, 55 E. Jamaica Ave. Valley Stream, NY 11580 or call 516-825-0177.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

I understand that I will be contacted by phone to discuss the possibility of my involvement in this ministry.

The best times to reach me are: _____ Daytime _____ Evenings _____ Weekends

Parishes Praying for Priests United in Eucharistic Adoration



Parishes of the RVC Diocese are answering Our Lady's call to pray for our shepherds. You are invited to pray for our priests, by name, during Adoration & silent prayer at Holy Name of Mary Church on...

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024
HOLY NAME OF MARY,
2PM to 4PM ONLY

For all participating parishes, go to www.drvc.org.

We have added a 5:00 pm Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, 2024

VIRTUS TRAINING IN SPANISH

A VIRTUS class will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Holy Name of Mary Convent. If you are interested in signing up for this class (in Spanish), register online at virtusonline.org. Any questions, please call Arely Mendoza-Cantos at 516-678-5800, x507.

MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

Prospective student, families and guests are invited to an Open House at Molloy University (1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre) on Sunday, April 14, at 1:00 pm. Register at: <https://www.molloy.edu/openhouse24>.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Proceeds will benefit Holy Name of Mary Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

2:00pm—5:00pm (arrive 1:45pm)

MAPLE LANES (100 Maple Ave., RVC)

\$25.00 per person

5 bowlers per lane

All are welcome! Families, friends & neighbors can participate!
Cost includes shoes, pizza & soda (gluten-free pizza will also be available).
50/50 Raffle (cash only). Deadline to reserve your spot: April 14th.

Please complete this form, include cash, or check made payable to SVDP-HNM Parish. Mail or drop off at the Rectory Office, 55 E. Jamaica Ave. or Parish Outreach Office at 65 E. Jamaica Ave. (10am-2pm).

NAME: _____ AMT. ENCLOSED _____

NUMBER of BOWLERS: _____ NUMBER OF BOWLERS FOR GLUTEN-FREE PIZZA: _____

Any questions, call Joe Gavin @ 516-978-1449.

Financial Information

Weekly budget amount to meet parish expenses	\$13,882
Weekly offering of March 24, 2024	\$15,272
Faith Direct (average of weekly donation)	\$ 1,740
TOTAL of weekly offering & Faith Direct/Other	\$17,012
Surplus	\$ 3,130

**The Parish Office will be closed Easter Sunday
and Easter Monday, April 1st.**

Have you included

Holy Name of Mary Church in your will?

One way to ensure that our parish continues, is to name Holy Name of Mary Church in your will. Contact the Parish Office to receive information on how to make HNM a part of your will.



HNM School Registration

Join in the Spirit at Holy Name of Mary School, an AdvancEd Accredited School. To register your child for Nursery (full day, age 3), Pre-K (full day, age 4), Kindergarten (full day, age 5) or Grade 1 through 8, contact our School Office to make an appointment at 516-825-4009, or visit www.hnomschool.org for registration materials and details. Before and after school care is available for all registered students. Follow Holy Name of Mary School on Instagram and Facebook @ hnomschoolvalleystream.

Remember In Prayer



All Those Who Are Sick

Father of Goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need...

Annie Bottone, Angela Hope Conroy, Flo Facibene
Anthony Ippolito, Declan Jurgens, Danny Larengeria
Alice Lynch, Kevin Lynch, Joanne Menzies, Richard Menzies
Ruth Ann Murray, Nial Pace, Jane Pope
Eddie Pultorak, Francine Raimondi
Vincent Raimondi, Jimmy Ross, Mary Ryder
Mary Lou Shannon, Mary Simek, Madge Vogric

(Names will remain on the sick list for **four weeks only**. If you would like to have the name listed again, please notify the Parish Office.)

All Those Who Have Died

Please remember in prayer the recently deceased, of our parish and for those who mourn their loss. We also remember all the souls in Purgatory.

Katherine Castro, Lisa A. Meaney
Theresa Rocco

Eucharistic Minister Schedule

Saturday, April 6, 2024

5:00pm

HOST} C. Maziarski, R. Maziarski

Sunday, April 7, 2024

7:45am

HOST} D. Fox, P. Jung

9:00am

HOST} S. Paradiso, C. Roncal

11:00am

HOST} T. Barry, J. Barry



Baptism Schedule

Baptisms in English are scheduled on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at 3pm. Baptisms in Spanish are scheduled on the second Saturday of every month at 12 noon. Please call the Parish Office for available dates. Baby's birth certificate and signed sponsor forms from godparents are required.

St. Vincent de Paul Message



Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice which brings new life to others. As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them Easter hope and joy.

Pantry needs: paper towels, toilet tissue, cereal, rice, beans, canned vegetables/fruit, pancake mix/syrup, oatmeal, coffee, tea, condiments, muffin/cake mix, Mac and cheese, instant or canned potatoes

If you or someone you know needs assistance, call SVdP or Parish Outreach at 516-825-0177.

Welcome
to Our Church

If you and your family recently moved to Valley Stream and wish to become registered parishioners of Holy Name of Mary Church, (or maybe you attend Mass regularly and have never registered), please visit the Parish Office to fill out a short registration form. Using our envelope system is the only way to have all your donations recorded.

Loose checks are not recorded, they must be placed in your registered parishioner envelope.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Pascua 2024

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo

¡Feliz Pascua a ustedes y a sus familias! Gracias por su amor a la Palabra inspirada de Dios. Gracias por su amor a las apariciones de la Resurrección de nuestro Señor en este tiempo de Pascua y por el modo en que sus vidas arden en su meditación y contemplación de estos misterios.

Gracias por su fidelidad a la Eucaristía y a la Misa Dominical y por su espíritu Católico de evangelización. Gracias por ser instrumentos del Renacimiento Eucarístico.

En *La alegría del Evangelio*, el Papa Francisco afirma: "Su resurrección no es algo del pasado; entraña una fuerza de vida que ha penetrado el mundo. Donde parece que todo ha muerto, por todas partes vuelven a aparecer los brotes de la resurrección. Es una fuerza imparable.... Cada día en el mundo renace la belleza, que resucita transformada a través de las tormentas de la historia... Ésa es la fuerza de la resurrección y cada evangelizador es un instrumento de ese dinamismo." (276)

Seguimos viviendo "las tormentas de la historia" y confiamos en el Señor Resucitado y en sus heridas glorificadas para que toquen las heridas de Ucrania, Oriente Medio, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Armenia y Azerbaiyán, la región del Sahel, el Cuerno de África y Sudán, así como Camerún, la República Democrática del Congo, Sudán del Sur y tantas otras zonas conflictivas del mundo¹. Pedimos al Señor Resucitado y a sus llagas glorificadas que toquen las heridas que se viven en nuestro propio país.

En *El hombre Eterno*, G.K. Chesterton captó el poder de la Resurrección de Nuestro Señor experimentada en los ciclos de la historia. Escribió: "La Cristiandad ha tenido una serie de revoluciones y en cada una de ellas el cristianismo ha muerto. El cristianismo ha muerto muchas veces y ha resucitado; porque tenía un Dios que conocía el camino para salir de la tumba".

Esta Pascua y en cada Pascua nosotros celebramos a este Hombre Eterno que supo salir de la tumba y que nos invita a nosotros y a la Iglesia Católica de Long Island a una gran Resurrección.

Sinceramente suyo en el Señor Resucitado,

Reverendísimo John O. Barres
Diócesis de Rockville Centre

...P. David Regan

"Oh Muerte, ¿dónde está tu aguijón? Oh Infierno, ¿dónde está tu victoria? Cristo ha resucitado y tú eres derribado. Cristo ha resucitado y los demonios han caído. Cristo ha resucitado y los ángeles se regocijan. Cristo ha resucitado y la vida reina. Cristo ha resucitado, y ningún muerto permanece en el sepulcro. Porque Cristo, resucitado de entre los muertos, primicias de los que durmieron ha venido a ser. A él sea la gloria y el dominio por los siglos de los siglos. (San Juan Crisóstomo, Homilía de Pascua)

Hemos atravesado una Cuaresma muy lentísima. La Cuaresma es ese momento precioso en el que las armas del autocontrol (la oración, el ayuno y la limosna) nos han impulsado a anhelar el consuelo de una relación de corazón a corazón con el Dios Trino y con el prójimo. La oración nos ha puesto en una mirada honesta y auténtica de un Dios que nos conoce y nos ama constantemente. Esa mirada penetrante atraviesa el corazón y nos hace correr hacia un abrazo aún más profundo y pleno en la Eucaristía en busca de fortaleza y en la Confesión para la curación y el perdón.

Si hemos ayunado apropiada y valientemente nuestra conclusión ha demostrado que nuestro verdadero consuelo y consuelo será el "Pan de lo alto" y el abrazo consolador de las huestes celestiales en el cielo. El ayuno nos dio poder para tener hambre de las cosas del cielo ya que "¡Nuestros corazones no descansarán hasta que descansen en Él!"

Nuestra limosna nos ha puesto en una relación adecuada con nuestro prójimo. Efesios 2:19 afirma que "...ya no sois extraños ni gente lejana. Pero vives con el pueblo de Dios y perteneces a la familia de Dios". A través del acto de humildad de las personas necesitadas y el acto caritativo de dar limosna, realmente nos convertimos en hermanos y hermanas en una familia construida sobre anhelos y virtudes comunes. Nuestras disciplinas cuaresmales y la cercanía personal que quedó demostrada a través del Triduo llegan a nuestra celebración de hoy. ¡HOY ES PASCUA!

Hoy demostró que el Dios personal que se encarnó, nació, cuidó a su madre, aprendió de San José la dignidad del trabajo, curó y ministró en tres años de ministerio público, curó, resucitó muertos, se ofreció en la Cruz y hoy ha resucitado, tiene un amor único, inquebrantable y apasionado por ti. Los relatos de la Resurrección muestran que los seguidores, aunque no comprendan el significado total de los acontecimientos, se están permitiendo convertirse en algo nuevo. Los días de Pascua nos llevan a seguir a los apóstoles y discípulos mientras aceptan con alegría la gracia saturante. Como la Resurrección de Jesús es algo nuevo en el curso de la historia humana y cósmica, lleva a sus seguidores a vivir como si fueran nuevos porque están hechos de nuevo.

La piedra ha sido removida y la narración adquiere un significado pleno. Ezequiel 36:26 dice: "Os daré un corazón nuevo y pondré un espíritu nuevo en vosotros; Quitaré de vosotros vuestro corazón de piedra y os daré un corazón de carne". Jesús ha quitado la piedra de nuestros corazones de la manera más hermosa y maravillosa. ¿Ahora que?

La verdad de la narrativa de Pascua se encarnó en el mundo por aquellos que aceptaron que el camino de Dios es mejor, que Jesús tiene un amor apasionado por nosotros y que, si todo es real, entonces debemos cambiar. ¡Es muy real!

¿Ahora que? ¿Eres amado? Sí, entonces vive como si fueras amado. ¿Estás perdonado y sanado? ¡Entonces vive como si hubieras sido perdonado y sanado! ¿Estás hecho de nuevo? ¡Entonces vívelo!

"La Cruz había hecho las preguntas; la Resurrección las había respondido... La Cruz había preguntado: "¿Por qué Dios permite que el mal y el pecado claven la Justicia en un madero?" La Resurrección respondió: "Ese pecado, habiendo hecho lo peor, podría agotarse y ser superado por el Amor que es más fuerte que el pecado o la muerte." (Arzobispo Fulton Sheen, Lent and Easter Wisdom, 110).

En última instancia, la Pascua ha revelado una verdad maravillosa. El amor es más poderoso que el dolor, el amor es más poderoso que la enfermedad incluido el covid-19, el amor es más poderoso que el pecado y, al final, el Amor es más poderoso que la muerte. La humanidad esperó esa respuesta de Dios y la ha escuchado alto y claro. Ahora la pregunta es ¿cómo vamos a vivir de nuevo, como si fuéramos amados y como si fuésemos sanados, redimidos y perdonados? La historia continúa de una manera muy real y solo se volverá más hermosa y aventurera a medida que participemos en el plan salvador de Dios para nosotros y todos los que nos rodean...

Bendita Pascua.