

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

### **I AM CALLED TO LIVE A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

The Lord has risen! Alleluia! Christ has brought us victory. We have been set free. Heaven's gates are opened. The heavens and the earth are glad. Those who have died have hope, and the angels are rejoicing.

If you have any doubt about the resurrection, ask Mary Magdalene, and listen to the testimony of Peter we just heard: "We are witnesses to all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree; but God raised Him on the third day and made Him manifest.... To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name".

During our baptism we died with Christ and rose with Him. Have we been really raised with Christ? What does it entail? St. Paul says: "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col.3:1-4). Seeking the things that are above is to look for things that will lead to eternal life. But seeking the things on earth is to move away from God and the result is the loss of the soul.

To seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated, is to do away with the old self of sin and put on a new self of righteousness. We are "to celebrate the festival (resurrection) not with the old leaven of malice and evil, but with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1Cor.5:8). What was my old way of life like? Is it pleasing to God or not? Do I have the desire to improve upon it? Do I want to live a new life in Christ? How can I make Christ's passion, death, and resurrection relevant, beneficial, profitable and useful?

What is required of me now is to do everything in a new way that is pleasing to God. I am to work with love and dedication. All things are to be done with sincerity of heart and truth. There should be no more laziness in my spiritual life; no more lies to relatives and friends. St. Paul says: "Any bitterness or bad temper or anger or shouting or abuse must be far removed from you. Be generous to one another, sympathetic, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ. No more impurity of any form, or greed" (Eph.4:25ff).

To live a new life in Christ St. Paul told the Romans: “Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil; stick to what is good. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of the saints as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors; bless and do not curse them. See that your conduct is honorable in the eyes of all” (Rom. 12:9-17). This is what the Lord wants us also to do as people who share in His resurrection. From now on, I have to control my senses and begin to live a life of emulation. Am I ready to respond to the call to live a new life in Christ?