

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

Easter, we celebrate the newness of life in Christ. It bursts forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching and living of the first Christians. Passionately, the first Christian lived and proclaimed the resurrection story. Christ is Risen, have we risen with him? If we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory. If we cast out the old self, we will be a new creation. When this wondrous transformation takes place within us, then everything is new and everything is fresh in and around us. So, to what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? Easter proclaims that Christ has died and risen; with him we die to all the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

We are called to be Easter people and to proclaim Christ's resurrection. Mary Magdalen's message to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," is the very essence of Christianity. It is not enough that a Christian knows about the Lord, but that we know him personally. It is not enough to argue about him, but to meet him. In the resurrection, we encounter the living Lord Jesus who loves us personally and shares his glory with us. Thus, having encountered him personally, we too passionately like the early Christians live and proclaim the resurrection story and bring hope alive in our troubled world.

Beginning of this month friars of the Holy Spirit Province, Canada, gathered for the Provincial Chapter: "Together for the Mission." Friars with the collaborators (people of God) opened up new ways of being and serving together as one family in Franciscan mission. Love for the mission, spirit of familial dialogue, importance of Franciscan discernment, and great fervor to be a synodal province, highlighted the chapter. Believed to be a pertinent way of going forward as a province in Canada. And, I am self-assured; to move forward as a province, the need of the hour is to go back to our Franciscan roots; identity, traditions and charism, which would spark love for Franciscan vocation and make an imprint on present time.

As we mourn the death of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, let us also celebrate the astounding service he has offered for the Church. St. Francis of Assisi and his spirituality, inspired and guided Pope Francis. He did his best to live and uphold Franciscan spirituality till the end. His life is a powerful witness for our faith. He is an incredible example for us to be a poor church for the poor which he said and lived all through his papacy. He has done his part; may we continue in his spirit to do our part to live our Franciscan spirituality. May we rise with Christ in every aspect of life and truly live as the Easter people. Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

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