Surrexit Dominus vere, Alleluia!

Vere Resurrexit, Alleluia!

The Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

For forty days of Lent, we have fasted, prayed and offered penances for our sins and those of the world. On Holy Thursday, we celebrated both the gift of the Holy Priesthood and Holy Eucharist as we remembered the Lord’s Supper and Sacrifice. On Good Friday, we solemnly remembered the Passion of Our Lord as we prayerfully entered into his crucifixion and death. On Holy Saturday, we waited. Christ was dead and buried and all was still. Finally, with the blessing of the new fire and the Paschal candle Christ is proclaimed as Risen and the Light of the World! The Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

We are Christian! We believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died, buried and rose again! He did this for us. He who had no sin was made sin for us. He who had no guilt died for us who deserved death. He did all of this because He loves us. Not as some collective group, but for each one of us. He loves us as if we were the only person ever to walk the face of this earth. He loves you – every single one of you. All of you. You are precious to Him. He died to atone for our sins and rose to give us hope. Now it is our turn. Our turn to have faith and hope in Him. To give ourselves totally to Him and surrender all we are into His most loving embrace. Like Mary Magdalen as she runs to spread the news of His resurrection to the Apostles, we are called to have faith in Him and spread the good news! The Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

We are living in unusual times. Times which have caused many to live in fear. Times which have caused many to lose hope. We are not a people of fear, but a people of hope and joy. So even in these times when so many in the world are isolated to reduce the spread of an illness, let us not become isolated from the joy of the Resurrection. Let us instead be united in prayer and hope and joy in the Risen Christ. For the Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

It is customary for two things to happen during Easter. First for the Church to welcome new members through baptism and the other sacraments of initiation. Second, for so many to don beautiful, joyful outfits to celebrate His Resurrection. This year, being different, we are hoping to celebrate the Rites of Initiation, welcoming new brothers and sisters in Christ on the Feast of Pentecost, May 31 and June 1. To give us something to look forward to as emerge from our isolation to the joy of being once again together as a family in Christ, I invite everyone to mark their calendars, and pray for those who will be reborn and brought into the family and on that weekend to wear your most joyful outfits to celebrate. That weekend, we will look forward to running to the world to announce. The Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

Fr. Roux