

## Easter Sunday

My beloved brothers and sisters: perhaps the saddest and most poignant cry in all of Sacred Scripture is the cry of the women who were going to the Tomb of Jesus to anoint His Body. In Matthew's Gospel, they say: "Who will roll away the stone for us, for it is a huge one!" It is the cry of every man and woman who has ever lost a beloved mother or father, son or daughter or friend. It is the impossibly huge stone of death that attempts to seal us into the fate of humanity which has condemned itself to death because of its own sinfulness. Sin is death, and there is no escaping it, except, when they arrive at the tomb, much to their shock, their mournful cry, has been answered! The Resurrection of Jesus Christ proclaimed by the angel seated upon the shelf that once held the Body of Jesus answers our deepest cry: "Do not be amazed. You are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified One. He is not here! He has been raised! Behold the place where they laid Him!"

The Angels proclamation is the stamp which validates all of the teachings of Jesus about the necessity of His saving death and Resurrection. It is the validation for all that He taught and all that He did. It is the fulfillment of His Divine Promise that He will extend the same Grace to each of us through His Divine Presence in His Church throughout the ages until He shall come again in His Glory and all things are placed under His feet! It is His proclamation that sin and death have been conquered, and communion between God and man has been reestablished and renewed, and more: for all those who are baptized into Christ Jesus, not only do we have the hope of salvation, we also have Divine Communion in Jesus with the Holy Trinity and with all of our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and all those who have died in friendship with God. We now have communion with the Body of Christ in all of the Baptized!

There is a terrible and awesome choice that you and I must make this night/day: if Christ is not raised from the dead, then everything, everything we believe is foolish, and He has no more authority over us, over sin and death than does Buddah or Mohammad, or Dr. Phil on TV. We are still caught in our sins and in death; but, if He has been raised from the dead, then, in Him, we live, and move

and have our being in Him who is God in the Flesh, and what we see now, though dimly, we shall see later, face to face. Think of that, provided we remain faithful to Him, we shall know as we are known and we shall see what Jesus sees! Think of this, countless men and women throughout the ages, have overcome their natural selfishness, and through Jesus, in Jesus, and with Jesus have become Saints. Think of this, we are surrounded by His miraculous presence, and these miracles are well attested to, they go beyond science and the natural world and plunge us into the Supernatural world of God, because He is so infinitely in love with us and has made that love known to us in His Beloved son Jesus Christ. Think of this, because of Jesus' total sacrifice, and His Resurrection from the Dead, hope is restored, death is conquered, sin is forgiven, and we too are plunged into the life of God in Jesus Christ. What is the only possible response? Two things: Believe- stake your life and your eternity upon Jesus and all that He teaches us and promises us; be a saint; and secondly, be gratitude in a Eucharistic Life, for there is no possible closer union with God in Jesus than our Holy Communion with Him and His Church, and live your gratitude by constant prayer, Confession and Holy Communion!